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75¢



OPINION METER This week's poll:

Do you support postponing this year's scheduled 50-cent minimum wage increase in the CNMI?

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BUSINESS



Need surgery? Good luck getting hospital cost information.

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North Korea conducts a widely anticipated nuclear test.

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Pope Benedict XVI's resignation opens the door to an array of successors.

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Newly hired School of Education chief quits. PAGE 3
Hotel occupancy at 91 pct. in January. PAGE 9

Ball now goes to the Senate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The 18th House of Representatives impeached Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on a total of 18 charges, with the adoption of the five remaining articles yesterday. Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said it is going to be an "uphill battle" in the Senate where a trial will be held to determine whether the governor will be removed from office or not.

Fitial, president of the Republican Party, is the first governor in the CNMI and any other U.S. insular area to be impeached.

His four allies in the 20-member House voted "no" to almost each of the 18 articles of impeachment.

» **Governor to face trial**
» **Fitial impeached on all 18 charges**



Fitial

House minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) abstained from voting on one of the 18 charges for conflict of interest.

Each of the 18 charges got more than the required two-thirds or 14 "yes" votes.

The individual vote on the last article came in at 11:28pm yesterday, but this was still followed by discussions and, ultimately, the adoption of the full impeachment resolution, House Resolution 18-2, House Draft 1.

The House speaker is set to sign off on the impeachment resolution's transmittal letter today to officially move

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Record gas prices on Saipan



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The latest gas prices are displayed at a Mobil gas station in Garapan.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan gas prices hit a record high of \$5.209 a gallon for regular unleaded gasoline and \$5.529 a gallon for premium unleaded gasoline, almost at par with the CNMI's minimum wage of \$5.55 an hour.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands increased its Saipan pump prices by 10 cents a gallon on Monday night, while Shell Marianas followed suit yesterday afternoon.

National media outlets are reporting that hedge funds, commodity pools and other high-roller investors have thrown close to \$12.5 billion into a collective bet that gasoline prices will rise, and some analysts say it's one reason why gasoline prices are at a record for this date in the United States.

Diesel is now \$5.519 a gallon on Saipan.

It was only two weeks ago when Mobil and Shell increased their pump prices by 10 cents, bringing to 20 cents the total increases since the start of 2013.

Emi Cruz, a taxi operator since 1996, said yesterday the 10-cent increase will be an added burden that residents don't have a control over. Her only hope is that she would get lots of customers for her business

See RECORD on Page 4



Weindl found not guilty

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A federal jury yesterday found former Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl not guilty of charges of accessing child pornography websites using a Public School System-issued laptop.

After deliberating since Thursday afternoon, the 12 jurors gave a unanimous not guilty verdict

against the 68-year-old Weindl on charges of attempted receipt of child pornography and access with intent to view child pornography.

Shortly after a court staff read the verdict at 1:35pm, Weindl's face turned red, then he tightly hugged his lawyer, David G. Banes. Beaming, he turned and nodded to a few friends in the gallery.

He also tried to say something to the court, raising

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Impeachment Proceedings



Rep. Roman Benavente (IR-Saipan) gestures as he confers with his colleagues during a short break in yesterday's House session wherein the House adopted the remaining five articles of impeachment against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who has been impeached on a total of 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. Benavente abstained from voting on one article of neglect.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



A smaller crowd gathers at the lobby of the House of Representatives to watch the deliberation and voting on a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Monday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), center, confers with House clerk Linda Muna, left, and counsel Joe Taison, right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



One by one, members of the House leadership emerge from the speaker's conference room and into their seats in the House chamber yesterday to vote on remaining impeachment articles against the governor.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), left, shows a copy of the minority bloc's position statement on the impeachment resolution during deliberations yesterday. Also in photo is Rep. Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan), right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Department of Public Safety police officers help ensure safety and security at the Legislature during the House session on Monday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

▲ The crowd in the House lobby watch the impeachment proceedings at the House on Monday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Newly hired School of Education chief abruptly quits

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Just three weeks into his new job, the newly hired director of the Northern Marianas College's School of Education abruptly resigned from his post, catching many of his colleagues unaware.

Sources told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Dr. Frank R. Trocki sent his resignation letter.

Probable cause found to charge teen for stabbing guard

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Probable cause has been found to warrant the filing of charges against a teenager who allegedly stabbed a security guard during a foiled robbery at a poker arcade in Dandan.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday found probable cause to believe that Edward A. Deleon Guerrero committed the crimes of attempted second-degree murder, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, attempted robbery, minor consuming alcohol, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

The 18-year-old Deleon Guerrero was remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Assistant attorney general Chmere McField appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti served as counsel for the suspect.

Deleon Guerrero allegedly went to Skyway Café Poker on Airport Road last Feb. 3 midnight to try to rob the arcade. Using a knife, he allegedly repeatedly stabbed the establishment's security guard, Fernando Martin.

Martin, 48, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was treated for lacerations on the neck, ear, and right thumb.

The defendant fled the scene but later turned himself in to the police.

Deleon Guerrero allegedly confessed to a police officer that it was his intention to rob Skyway Café Poker.

At a separate preliminary hearing yesterday, Camacho also found probable cause to charge Sergio Rangamar, a 36-year-old man who allegedly aimed a gun at his two cousins in Gualo Rai.

Rangamar is charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, one count of illegal possession of a firearm, one count of illegal possession of ammunition, two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count of criminal contempt.

Rangamar was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Police arrested Rangamar last Jan. 31.

ter via email to NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D. over the weekend, citing "personal issues." He reportedly left the island immediately.

Trocki was hired from off-island to fill the director position, which has been vacant for quite some time. He came aboard some three weeks ago and was officially introduced to the Board of Regents just last week.

Saipan Tribune learned that Barbara Merfalen, the dean of CUC projects \$122M collections; no LEAC adjustment seen this month

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. expects to collect \$122.4 million this fiscal year and sees no rate adjustments taking effect this month, according to chief financial officer Charles Warren yesterday.

"Based on CUC's [fiscal year] 2013 budget, collections this year are expected to be about \$122.4 million. Of course, actual amounts will vary due to LEAC [levelized energy adjustment clause] adjustments required by changing fuel costs," Warren told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate.

For this month, Warren foresees no LEAC adjustment being made. He explained that changes in the LEAC rates are made based on average fuel prices of the previous month.

"Therefore, we do not know, until after each month ends, if adjustments are needed or not. Based on average January price-

Academic Programs and Services, informed faculty and directors about Trocki's sudden departure on Monday.

Merfalen confirmed Trocki's resignation in a statement yesterday.

"It is unfortunate that Dr. Trocki had to resign due to personal issues that required his return to the mainland. We have already identified instructors that will assume the courses that Dr. Trocki was assigned to

es, no change to the LEAC [will be] made for February," he said.

CUC last reduced the LEAC rate on Jan. 7 by 4.6 percent due to the decline in average fuel prices.

The existing LEAC rate is \$0.29751 per kilowatt-hour.

Since the start of the fiscal year in October last year, the utilities corporation has already collected about \$32.5 million. This includes the \$5.2 million it recently collected from its three biggest customers: the central government, public schools, and the public hospital.

In November last year, CUC had about \$19.4 million in outstanding receivables from its customers.

CUC is a nonprofit organization whose operation relies heavily on the payment of its power, water, and wastewater customers.

Warren earlier said that since the utilities corporation is budgeted to have zero profit, failure to collect for all services billed results in delayed payment to vendors and eventually a reduction in services and system maintenance.

CUC has been in a state of emergency since December due to the financial crisis at the agency.

teach," said Merfalen.

She said the college will immediately begin the process of finding a replacement.

Some employees said they were taken by surprise by Trocki's resignation. Although

Prior to joining NMC, Trocki worked as an education consul-

tant for business development at Aspen University and for Montana State University-Northern in Havre, Montana.

Hart and Board of Regents chair Juan Lizama are currently at a conference in Washington, D.C. Other board members will attend the same conference in April in California.

CNMI govt settles police brutality suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday dismissed the CNMI government from a police brutality lawsuit filed by two men after both parties agreed to a settlement.

In their lawsuit, Felipe Kalen and Alafano A. Kintin alleged that a police officer sprayed them with pepper mace on the eyes even if they had not committed any criminal acts.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed with prejudice the Commonwealth from the lawsuit and retained jurisdiction over the settlement's enforcement.

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed in court papers.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay, counsel for the CNMI government, and attorney Timothy H. Bellas, counsel for Kalen and Kintin, informed the court last week about their settlement.

Lochabay and Bellas, on be-

half of their clients, said because of their settlement, they are now asking the court to dismiss the complaint with prejudice as to the CNMI government only.

Dismissal with prejudice means the case cannot be reopened.

Lochabay and Bellas said that despite the dismissal, the court shall retain jurisdiction in order to enforce the terms and provisions of the settlement agreement.

Kalen and Kintin filed the lawsuit in July 2012 against former police officer Francisco S. Pangelinan, the CNMI government, and four unnamed police officers.

The plaintiffs sued the defendants for excessive force and false arrest, battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. They are demanding \$300,000 and \$100,000 in dam-

ages respectively, plus attorney's fees and court costs.

According to Bellas in the complaint, on July 26, 2010 in western Garapan, Pangelinan sprayed the eyes of Kalen and Kintin with pepper mace despite the fact that the two had committed no criminal acts or posed no threat to the armed police officers.

Pangelinan was indicted in March 2011 over the incident and he subsequently pleaded guilty to the use of excessive force on Kalen.

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Lawmakers: Non-renewal of Fletcher's contract 'retaliation'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lawmakers said yesterday that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's decision not to renew the contract of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Alan W. Fletcher may have been an act of "retaliation" against Fletcher for not seeing eye-to-eye with the governor on a sole-source \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) described it as "discreet retaliation."

"Mr. Fletcher made the governor

look bad with regards to the PPA ordeal and now he is paying the price," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

He likened this to the "forced resignation" of former Public Lands secretary Oscar Babauta and former Public Lands secretary Martin Sablan.

"But this is the governor's modus operandi," said Dela Cruz.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), for his part, said it is regretful that Fletcher would be let go. He said he had an inkling that the governor would make Fletcher pay for his position on the PPA during the impeachment proceedings at the House

in the 17th Legislature. He said he was thinking Fletcher "would have to pay for his disloyal behavior."

"And I think that is happening now. It's regretful. He was brought in for a reason, it was for a stipulated order requiring his expertise... I don't know what the governor intends to do but we certainly still have to meet all those requirements... I think this sets us back," he told reporters yesterday.

Fletcher testified before House and Senate committees during inquiries about the sole-source PPA that the governor and his former attorney general signed amid concerns from CUC

Happy 75th birthday to our grandpa, Joaquin Cruz Lizama, who celebrated his birthday on Feb. 12, 2013! We wish you good health and lots of love on your special day and many more birthdays to come. Wish we were there to help you celebrate another year with you. We hope you enjoy and remember even if we are an island away, we love you so much. Ginen as Craig, Tinie, Esper, Nishia yan si Boboy.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to our loving mother, Lourdes B. Valenzuela and many more blessed years to come! We love you! Greetings come from your husband, children, grandchildren, and your family in Portland, Oregon (Joey, Kate, and kids).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WEINDL

From Page 1

ing his right hand at least twice, but U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona did not allow him to speak.

She ordered Weindl's immediate release from the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

"You are free to leave," Manglona told Weindl.

In an interview with reporters after the hearing, Weindl said he's just extremely elated that the case is finally over.

"I'm just really looking forward to

starting the next chapter of my life," he said as he thanked his lawyers, Banes and Michael Dotts.

Weindl said he is extremely grateful to the jury.

"I think they reached a just and very appropriate ruling, verdict. It's just good to breath fresh air and come out from the front door instead of the back door," he said.

Banes said they are glad the jury really looked into the evidence. He believes that the strongest argument was that the prosecution could not show what Weindl saw.

"So they couldn't tell the jury what Tom allegedly saw. They said, 'Well,

maybe it's this, maybe it's that,'" the defense lawyer said.

When asked for a brief interview, assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy said he has to check with his office first if it is proper for him to comment.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe assisted Badawy during the trial that began on Jan. 28.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Weindl on June 28, 2012.

The prosecution alleged that Weindl searched for and accessed almost 200 websites containing images of child pornography, as indicated in e-blaster reports that FBI special agent Joe Auther allegedly received.

experts themselves. The governor's signing of the 25-year PPA, which lawmakers learned of only from the media, is one of the issues that led to the impeachment of the governor.

Fitial has been impeached on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

"And although maybe we can't prove it but it's unfortunate that it appears to be a retaliation to Mr. Fletcher's lack of

cooperation," Deleon Guerrero said.

Fitial's allies in the House blamed Fletcher for allegedly failing to advise the governor against signing the power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC, although Fletcher said the governor had already signed the PPA prior to consulting CUC about it.

The governor has placed CUC under a state of emergency, placing it directly under his control.

be much harder with regular gas now \$5.20 per gallon, and the economy is not good and prices are high," Islam said in a separate interview at Mobil's filling station in Garapan.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notice of price changes.

Mobil earlier said that prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

The prosecution alleged that Weindl searched and accessed almost 200 websites containing images of child pornography. They said several of the searches specifically reference "eleven year old girl" and "twelve year old" engaging in sex.

The prosecution said Weindl also searched for images depicting the violent sexual abuse of children.

During trial, the prosecution showed only three images. Banes pointed out during trial that his client admitted to viewing websites containing pornography out of "inappropriate curiosity," but he never stated child pornography.

watched the House proceedings yesterday.

Among them was the governor's sister, Gregoria, who declined to comment. "So? Say whatever you want to say," she said.

Department of Public Safety police officers continued to provide security during the duration of the House session.

The four "no" votes on almost all of the articles of impeachment were from the governor's allies: Minority leader George Camacho (R-Saipan), Reps. Felicidad Ogunoro (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), and Richard Seaman (R-Saipan).

The "yes" votes came from House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Reps. Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan), Anthony Benavente (IR-Saipan), Roman Benavente (IR-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), John P. Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Ralph Yumul (IR-Saipan).

The administration has yet to issue a statement about the House's impeachment of the governor. Press secretary Angel Demapan has gone off-island for a regional leadership workshop and is not expected to be back until next week. Fitial has not designated an acting press secretary.

BALL

From Page 1

the impeachment process to the Senate.

"The process is not over. It's a two-step process and we've only gone as far as pushing it to the Senate," said Deleon Guerrero, adding, however, that the CNMI is "at a turning point."

Deleon Guerrero is the main author of the impeachment resolution, co-authored by 15 other House leadership members.

'Vigorous, meticulous preparation'

Deleon Guerrero and others' attempts to impeach the governor during the 17th Legislature failed because the previous House leadership was aligned with the governor or his Republican Party.

After the impeachment bid failed to succeed in the previous Legislature, Deleon Guerrero said he was asked, "Is it over?" to which he responded, "Let the people decide."

The GOP's candidates were almost wiped out during the Nov. 6 elections, and almost all pro-impeachment candidates and incumbents won seats.

These lawmakers now say they have a "public mandate" to finish what was started and to stand up against corruption and lack of transparency in government.

"As we've seen, the people did send a strong message. We have just carried the ball from where we left off to where we are now... It's an uphill battle in the Senate. You saw the discussions, the

deliberations," Deleon Guerrero said.

The minority bloc members, he said, feel that "some if not most of the allegations are not substantiated and just hearsay."

"I think the proof will be in the Senate. I can tell you that we will be preparing vigorously and meticulously for the trial at the Senate. I can tell you that much," he told reporters after the session yesterday.

At the session

Rep. Felicidad Ogunoro (R-Saipan), one of the governor's allies in the House, said she's still not convinced that the governor committed acts that warrant his impeachment.

Instead of impeaching the governor, she said the task at hand should be to "find money" to turn the economy around, save the Commonwealth Health Center, the NMI Retirement Fund, the Public School System, and create jobs for the unemployed "roaming around the streets," among other things.

Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) said the minority bloc should stop making excuses for the governor.

Rep. Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) and later the speaker cited negative consequences of not having a Department of Public Safety commissioner, for example, including low employee morale and inability to set leadership goals that will help solve murders, burglaries, and other crimes.

He said the involvement of police officers in shielding a former attorney general from being served a penal summons also calls into question the leadership at DPS when there was no

permanent commissioner.

The speaker, for his part, said one of the negative consequences of a lack of a permanent DPS commissioner is the lack of accountability.

"We cannot hold one person accountable," he said.

Some members also shared their thoughts about the impeachment process at the House.

Floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), for example, applauded the speaker and members "for taking on this most difficult task and pain of conducting an open and transparent public inquiry as regards to the ethical conduct of our chief executive in a small and close knit community such as ours."

"Today we will rewrite our political history and shape our political destiny," he reiterated.

Articles of impeachment

The 16 co-authors of the impeachment resolution voted "yes" to almost each of the 18 articles of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) abstained from voting on one of the articles of neglect of duty yesterday—the governor's failure to appoint a Supreme Court justice from October 2011 to August 2012.

Benavente later said there was no conflict of interest, but he felt that abstaining from voting would justify what he feels about this charge based on the reading of the impeachment resolution.

During the resumption of its session yesterday, the House voted on Articles 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18.

They are neglect of duty charges

related to the governor's failure to timely appoint for Senate consideration the following: Public Utilities Commission commissioners, Supreme Court justice, Department of Public Safety commissioner, Department of Public Lands secretary, and Department of Public Works secretary, respectively.

Fitial, 68, was impeached on Monday on charges related to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate to give him a massage at his private residence in the wee hours of the morning in January 2010, a few days before he was to take his oath of office for a second term, as well as the signing of a sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

He was also impeached on charges related to the award of a sole-source ARRA management contract worth almost \$400,000.

The governor was also impeached on charges related to his failure to remove a former attorney general for violation of federal and local election laws, and conspiring with others to shield the same former AG, now a fugitive from justice, from being served a penal summons.

If at least six of the nine-member Senate convicts Fitial on at least one of the 18 charges, he will be removed from the post he has held for seven years so far.

When that happens, Fitial would become only the ninth United States governor to be impeached and removed from office; the last was Illinois' Rod Blagojevich in 2009.

Only a few members of the public

New CNMI law placed excepted civil service employees in limbo

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Government agencies are temporarily barred from making decisions on the hiring, reassignment, transfer, and payment of employees who belong to excepted civil service positions following disclosure that the new law that gives autonomy to the Personnel and Budget Management and the Civil Service Commission office does not have oversight on excepted civil service personnel.

Commission executive director Andrew Orsini explained this to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying an emergency regulation that will provide the commission board authority over this personnel classification has been proposed.

NMHC request for exemption from self-sufficiency program approved

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Citing the continued depressed economy of the CNMI, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. remains exempted from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Kimo Rosario, Program and Housing Division manager for NMHC, informed the agency's board of directors during Thursday's meeting that they requested for another three-year exemption for the FSS.

HUD approved the request on Jan. 16.

The FSS program aims to free families from the need for public assistance by helping them identify and reach their educational and career goals by finding job training programs, child care agencies, transportation, and other support services.

Eligible to participate in the program are the heads of households that are tenants of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program or a Public Housing Resident. They should be at least 18 years old and are committed to entering a job training and/or educational program, currently in "good standing" with NMHC, and are willing to enter into an agreement called the FSS Contract of Participation.

"Basically, it's a program that helps families transition from dependency on housing assistance to become more self-sufficient," Rosario said in an interview.

He explained that the three-year extension signifies that HUD, which provides funding that allows NMHC to administer its programs, will not require the local agency to have

Public Law 17-80, which was signed in August last year, established a non-partisan and independent Civil Service System. This law also repealed provisions of Public Law 13-1 regarding excepted service personnel regulations.

Orsini said that since the passage of P.L. 17-80, the commission lost its authority over excepted civil service employees, defined as "employees who perform special, unique and essential functions for the public interest."

Saipan Tribune learned that these employees, many of whom started work on Aug. 31, 2012, have not been paid because the Office of Personnel Management lacks the statutory or regulatory framework to finalize their contracts. If pay-

ments were made to some of these employees, this was made without regulatory approval.

Orsini said there's "quite a number" of excepted employees who have been waiting payments for their services since August.

Under the P.L. 17-80, the CSC has currently no authority to terminate an excepted service employee for cause. Similarly, there is no mandate to maintain a drug-free workplace as well as no prohibition against sexual harassment in the workplace—some of the controls that were in the old law.

According to Orsini, without an amendment to the new law or an emergency regulation that will cover excepted service personnel, the government has no authority to regulate these employees and their conduct.

an FSS program in place.

Rosario noted, though, that the Commonwealth can get out of the exemption at any time once the conditions on the islands improve.

He said that NMHC is looking at implementing the program as soon as it can.

"The more families that we help transition to become more independent, the more families we can assist on the waiting list. They'll eventually decide to opt out of the voucher and move over to home ownership. There's a lot of them who really want to own their own homes," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rosario disclosed to the board that he is presently work-

ing on an FSS action plan that is already 90 percent complete.

Deadline to submit the plan is on July 4, he said.

"That plan must be approved by our HUD Field Office," said Rosario.

The division manager noted that an FSS action plan must be in place for NMHC to avail of existing grants to fund the FSS program's needs.

NMHC also needs to form partnerships with other service-related institutions such as the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, Workforce Investment Agency, and Department of Labor for the implementation of the FSS program.

NOAA announces public hearings to be held for the proposed rule to list 66 coral species as threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Public hearings will be held at the following locations on the date and time provided:

**Guam Hilton, Hagatna
202 Hilton Road, Tumon Bay, Guam 96913
February 11, 2013 at 5:00 pm.**

**Multipurpose Room on Beach Road, Susupe Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950
February 12, 2013 at 5:00 pm.**

**Fleming Hotel, Tinian
P.O. Box 68 Tinian, MP 96952
February 13, 2013 at 5:00 pm.**

**Mayor's Office, Rota
Tatachog Road, Rota, CNMI 96951
February 15, 2013 at 5:00 pm.**

Each hearing will include an initial town hall style meeting for the public to review materials and ask questions, followed by a formal hearing to submit public testimony. The full text of the proposed rule and supplemental documents can be found at www.regulations.gov or at www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_coral.html#supplemental_docs

For a full schedule of the public hearings please visit:
www.fpir.noaa.gov



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program will be doing pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants. The program will open to a maximum of 200 children or slots only (CNMI wide). **For this opening, parents who are full time students with zero income will be given priority. Parents attending school, training or working will be accommodated.** Once all slots have been taken, pre-eligibility assessments will cease and applications will no longer be provided.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time.

Location	Date	Time	Submission Dates and Time	Final Date to Submit Application
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Social Hall	Friday, March 15, 2013	1:30p.m. to 6:00p.m.	March 22 to April 10 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.	April 10 at 4:00p.m.
Rota	Please call CCDF Office for information			
Tinian	Please call CCDF Office for information			
For Full Time Students with Zero Income CCDF Office Capitol Hill, Saipan	Every Friday Only	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	On-going	On-going

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following:

A. For Full Time Students or in Training with Zero Income:

- School Documents such as acceptance letter and/or class schedule
- Must be enrolled full time (12 credits)
- If attending ABE must provide letter from ABE Office indicating that the student is considered full time
- In Training: must have documents indicating a minimum of 60 training hours bi-weekly

B. For Full Time students with income:

- All requirements under letter A plus
- Three (3) latest check stubs showing: Applicant's full name, hours worked (a minimum 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
- Most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 for both parents

C. For working parents:

- Three (3) latest check stubs showing: Applicant's full name, hours worked (a minimum 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
- Most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 for both parents

Interested applicants must bring the above documents to be entertained for pre-eligibility.

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. **Applications will not be accepted on the following dates due to Monthly Invoice submission: April 2, 3, and 4.**

For questions regarding the Child Care Program please call at 664-2575/664-2546/664-2576.

Full Requirements:

Applicant of Household

1. Three (3) latest check stubs each parent or legal guardian (if legal guardian, must provide copy of Court Documents)

- a. Applicant's Full Name
- b. Hours worked (minimum of 60 hours bi-weekly)
- c. Hourly Rate
- d. Gross Monthly Earnings

2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian

- a. Passport
- b. CNMI Driver's License
- c. Mayor's ID
- d. CW 1, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)

3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 (each parent or guardian)

4. Residency: Provide one of the following:

- a. House Rental/ Mortgage
- b. Utility Receipt
- c. Telephone Receipt
- d. CW 1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)

5. Employment verification (CCDF prescribed form)

6. Training/Education Verification
 - a. Letter of Acceptance from Institution
 - b. Full time student
 - i. Twelve (12) Credit Units
 - ii. Letter from ABE indicating full time status

7. Notarized Affidavit indicating (CCDF Form)
 - a. Parent is single
 - b. Child Support Statement

8. Status: CW1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics documentation (if applicable)

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))

2. A copy of US Passport

3. A copy of Social Security Card

CNMI Child Care Program Income Eligibility

Family Size	Income Level
1	\$931.00
2	\$1261.00
3	\$1591.00
4	\$1921.00
5	\$2251.00
6	\$2581.00
7	\$2911.00
8	For families with more than 7 persons, add \$330.00 to each additional family member

Approved for distribution: /s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

Date: February 07, 2013

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

Fitial admits \$190.8M PPA has direct, indirect costs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has admitted that there are direct and indirect costs associated with the power purchase agreement that he and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham signed.

Fitial, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay,

» Governor denies anyone will be forced to pay

however, denied that anyone will be forced to pay under the power purchase agreement.

Fitial made the admission and denial on Feb. 8 in response to the complaint filed by the Senate and Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and then representative and now Sen. Ray A. Yu-

mul (IR-Saipan).

The Senate, Maratita, and Yumul are suing Fitial, Buckingham, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC in Superior Court over an alleged illegal \$190.8-million PPA.

Buckingham last Jan. 29 submitted his answer to the lawsuit.

He admitted that the PPA that he signed on Aug. 3, 2012, provides for a payment of

\$190,827,300.

In Fitial's answer to the lawsuit, Lochabay denied that the PPA contractor, Saipan Development LLC, is a mysterious company.

Fitial also admitted that an Option to Lease was executed for public lands in Lower Base.

The governor said no power plant could be operational by 2013 and that the amount of costs and expenses as alleged in the lawsuit is purely speculative.

Fitial stated that he was exercising his discretionary authority as governor, and that the actions he took were legal and within his authority as governor.

Lochabay also asked the court to substitute the CNMI government for Fitial in the lawsuit.

"This substitution of the CNMI as the defendant in such

cases is mandated by Public Law 15-22 because P.L. 15-22 also provides that a suit against the Commonwealth is the exclusive remedy for those claiming injury by reason of acts of Commonwealth employees acting within the scope of their employment," Lochabay said.

Lochabay said that Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas

has also filed a certification that Fitial was acting within scope of his employment when he allegedly took the actions being complained of.

The plaintiffs want the court to declare the 25-year power purchase agreement "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Thirteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Adoption of Minutes
 - a) October 24, 2012 Special Board Meeting
 - b) October 29, 2012 Special Board Meeting
 - c) January 14, 2013 Regular Board Meeting
 - d) January 14, 2013 Inaugural Meeting
 - e) January 16, 2013 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments 1

III. Reports

- 1) Chair
- 2) Board Committees
 - a) FPA
 - b) ISA
 - c) LIA
 - d) CIP
 - e) Student Issues, Community & Parent Programs (SICPP)
 - f) Ad Hoc on COE Evaluation
 - g) Joint BOE-NMC BOR Ad Hoc
- 3) Commissioner of Education
 - a) Financial Status Reports
 - (1) Federal
 - (2) Local
 - b) Head Start Program Reports
 - c) Other matters

V. New Business

- 1) Commemorative Resolution for the late Juan Borja Tudela
- 2) Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) Nutrition Assistance Grant (NAG) for 2013
- 3) FNS Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) for 2013
- 4) Part B Special Education Program Grant for 2013
- 5) Part C Early Intervention Program Grant for 2013
- 6) Part C Early Intervention Program Annual Performance Report (APR) for FY2011
- 7) Part B Special Education Program Annual Performance Report (APR) for FY2011
- 8) Head Start Program Self-Assessment Work Plan & Timeline
- 9) Head Start Program Community Assessment Work Plan & Timeline
- 10) Memorandum of Agreement for San Vicente Elementary School and Dandan Elementary School – ANA Grant
- 11) Budget FY2014
- 12) BOE Goals and Objectives for 2013

VI. Executive Session 2

- 1) Legal Updates
- 2) Personnel
- 3) Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters

- 1) Certification & Licensure Matters
 - A. Approval of Certifications
 1. Basic I (3)
 2. Basic II (5)
 3. Standard w/o Endorsement (1)
 4. Standard w/Endorsement (4)
 5. Professional (2)
 - 2) Setting of Regular Board Meetings
 - A. Second Thursday of the Quarter
 - 3) Other matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

JUAN T. LIZAMA
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 501508
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7220/483-2662
Fax No. (670) 234-9093

Petitioner Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE) CIVIL ACTION
MATTER OF:) NO. 13-0002
VICTENTE TUDELA)
LIZAMA,) NOTICE TO
Deceased.) CREDITORS

TO ALL CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE
OF VICTENTE TUDELA LIZAMA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a probate in the estate of Vicente Tudela Lizama has been instituted in the Superior Court in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

All persons having a claim against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claim with the Clerk of Court of the Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice. Failure to file any claim within the said period of time may bar the claimant's claim.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2013.

/s/ JUAN T. LIZAMA
Petitioner Pro Se

Nicole Schafer, CRM education and outreach coordinator, read a book to children during a Read Aloud & Craft activity at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Nicole Schafer, CRM.

"CRM aims to raise awareness about our coastal ecosystem and we at the public library are happy to collaborate with them in educating our community about that while promoting literacy at the same time," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Naputi said that the participants of Read Aloud & Craft, after listening to stories, would take part in art activities at the library to better understand the books that were read.

Read Aloud & Craft is one of the many continuing programs at JKPL. For more information, visit the library in Susupe or call 235-7316/22/23 or fax 235-7550.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP13-CHCC-078**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2013

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"REVENUE CYCLE ENHANCEMENT
PROJECT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO – COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

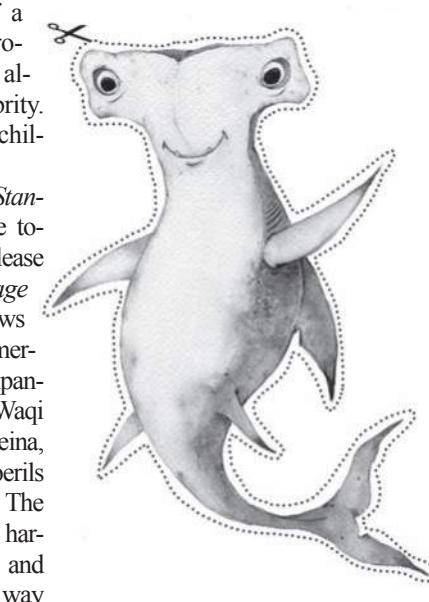
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

'THE ADVENTURES OF SHARK STANLEY AND FRIENDS'

Educational kids' book available for free download

Shark Stanley, the star of a grassroots campaign to protect sharks and rays, was already an international celebrity. Now he's the hero of a children's book, too.

The Adventures of Shark Stanley and Friends is available today in a special online release by Shark Defenders and *Sage Magazine*. The story follows Stanley, a courageous hammerhead shark, and his three companions: Pierre the Porbeagle, Waqi the Whitetip, and Manta Reina, as they navigate human perils through their undersea home. The quartet dodges longlines, harpoons, slime-covered reefs, and garbage patches, along the way discovering how sharks and other predators help keep ecosystems healthy.



Illustrations by Dan Yagmin, Jr.

Over 15 sponsors collaborate with NMC on Health Fair

Several more organizations have signed on to partner with the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club to host the upcoming Health Fair.

These include the Commonwealth Cancer Association, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems' Big Steps Little Feet Program, Marianas Eye Institute, Hardt Eye Clinic, the Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic, Saipan Health Clinic, Take Care Insurance, Island Apparel, Tropical Blends, Foremost, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Island's Club, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, and Trench Tech.

All community members are invited to the Health Fair on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, from 8am to 3pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. The purpose of the Health Fair is to increase awareness about healthy lifestyle habits and practices.

The Health Fair activities will run from 8am until 3pm, but will also feature a 5K Walk starting at 6:30am. Registration for the 5K Walk will be from 6:30am to 7:30am, and there will be incentives for participants while supplies last. Entrance to the Health Fair and the 5K Walk is free.

The Health Fair is also supported by the Let's Move Marianas Campaign, the College Access Challenge Grant, Area Health Education Center, the Associated Student of the Northern Marianas College, and the Office of the Dean of Student Services.

In addition to the exhibits, there will be games and information booths, as well as free immunizations, screenings for blood pressure, height and weight, and blood glucose. There will also be various presentations and fitness classes from organizations like the Cooperative Research Extension and Educational Services' Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, GetFit

The four characters correspond to the four species of sharks and rays to which the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species will consider granting increased protection at its annual meeting in March. Hammerhead, Oceanic Whitetip, and Porbeagle populations have plummeted in recent years as a result of the shark fin industry, which contributes to the death of up to 73 million sharks every year. Mantas, whose gill rakers are prized herbal medicine, are in similarly dire straits.

The book is the brainchild of Leah Meth and Onon Bayasgalan, students at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and the non-profit Shark Defenders.

"Our goal is to bring something new to the table, to provide an educational tool that goes beyond a signature on a petition," Meth says. "We wanted to create a charismatic character with whom young people—and the young at heart—can build their own relationships, while making meaningful connections with youth around the world."

The Adventures of Shark Stanley and Friends is written by Ben Goldfarb and Leah Meth, illustrated by Dan Yagmin, Jr., and designed by Monte Kawahara. The book is available for free download at www.sharkstanley.com. (PR)

CNMI, and Trench Tech. The American Red Cross will also demonstrate CPR techniques, and the event will also feature a lecture on Hansen's disease by Dr. Daniel Lamar.

The Department of Public Health will be giving immunizations from 8am to 11am. If you are planning to come down for immunizations, be there no later than 10:45am and bring your child's yellow immunization card or any other records of immunization given.

Participants may also purchase one-dollar raffle tickets for a chance to win prizes like dental exams from Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic, eye exams from Marianas Eye Institute and gift certificates from Tropical Blends and other companies. Funds raised will be donated to the NMC's Nursing Club to purchase lancets and other supplies used for community service projects.

Members in the community can also learn about the various health service programs including the Women, Infants, and Children program, which provides nutritional assistance to women and children under the age of 5.

Interested community members and businesses are encouraged to donate used dresses, tuxedos, shoes, accessories, and bags to the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's Project PROM during the Health Fair.

"Our goal for this Health Fair is to increase awareness and the importance of living a healthier lifestyle by eating the right types of food and becoming more physically active," said NMC Nursing Club president Carina Train. "This is also a wonderful opportunity to expose yourself and your children to the different resources available in the CNMI."

For additional information about the Health Fair, contact Train at 234-5498 Ext. 1346. (NMC)

LOCAL

(formerly Remington Club)

Valentine's Day Dinner Specials

All Steaks are CERTIFIED BLACK ANGUS BEEF and are served on Sizzling Platters upon request! All Entrees are served with choice of Steamed Rice, Baked or Mashed Potato, or French Fries.

Shrimp Bisque
Mixed Green Salad
8 Oz. Rib Eye with Grilled Lobster Tail
Coffee or Iced Tea
Fruit of the Day
A Glass of Mico's Special Concoction or
A Glass of Red or White Wine
Chocolate Kahlua Cake

Shrimp Cocktail
Shrimp Bisque
Mixed Green Salad
Grilled Prime Rib (Local Marinade)
Coffee or Iced Tea
Fruit of the Day
A Glass of Red or White Wine
Chocolate Kahlua Cake

ALSO AVAILABLE

ROTISSERIE CHICKEN
WHOLE: \$12.00 - HALF: \$ 7.50

Bar Area – All you can drink!
Domestic Beer (can), Draft, Red or White Wine and Well Liquor Drinks. Free Appetizers!

All for \$25.00 per person!
Offer good from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. ONLY.

Reservations Recommended.

Call 233-5368 (Restaurant) · 233-6657 (Bar) · 483-4258 (Mobile)
Located on the corner of Corp. Derence Jack Road and Coral Tree Avenue, across Fiesta Resort & Spa



MARIANAS CUP BEACH VOLLEYBALL FESTIVAL 2013
FEBRUARY 13 TO MARCH 3RD

The longest running beach volleyball event in Micronesia
www.nmivolleyball.org

BEACH VOLLEYBALL ☞ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS					
SAIPAN					
• FREE Kids Clinic w/the Pro Players (Ages 8-25)	REGISTRATION for Junior Cup	• REGISTRATION for Junior Cup (reg closes 6:00pm) • Sunset Tourney Championship • Happy Hour w/Pro Players	• Junior Cup Pool Play (2-person) • 11:30am Pro Player Exhibition Matches • No late entries accepted	Junior Cup Double Elimination • based on Saturday pool play • No new entries	Kids Cup
Wednesday February 13 4:30 – 6:30pm FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN (beach side)	Thursday February 14 4:00 – 6:00pm MHS Gym at MISO Games	Friday February 15 4:00 – 7:00pm FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN (beach side)	Saturday February 16 8:30a – 5:00p FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN (beach side)	Sunday February 17 8:30a – 5:00p FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN (beach side)	Sunday March 3 8:30a – 5:00p
All events are open to the Public ☞ No membership required					
GUAM					
• FREE Kids Clinic w/the Pro Players (Ages 8-25)	REGISTRATION for Pro Am Cup	• 6:00p Pro Player Exhibition Matches • Pro Raffle Draw (during exhibition) • REGISTRATION for Pro Am Cup (reg closes 5:30pm)	• ProAm Cup Pool Play • No late entries accepted	ProAm Cup Double Elimination • based on Saturday pool play • No new entries	Kids Cup
Wednesday February 20 4:00 – 6:00pm Gun Beach, Tumon	Thursday February 21 ALL DAY ST JOHN'S GYM	Friday February 22 3:00 – 9:00pm Guam Beach Bar - Gun Beach, Tumon	Saturday February 23 8:30a – 6:00p Guam Beach Bar - Gun Beach, Tumon	Sunday February 24 8:30a – 6:00p Guam Beach Bar - Gun Beach, Tumon	Sunday March 3 8:30a – 5:00p

EVENT SPONSORS

Platinum

DOCOMO PACIFIC

Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Gold

National Car Rental

Silver

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL

Bronze

Pacific SubSea • Tony Romas • Capriciosa • Truongs • Triple J Enterprises • Hertz RAC • Tribes • Elliott Artworks • Top Notch • The Beach House Bar

Huge FUNdraising raffle draw at both the Junior Cup and the Pro Am — tickets only \$1 each

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FREE KIDS CLINICS

- No registration required
- Sign in on arrival
- Saipan & Guam

JUNIOR CUP

- Registration required
- Parent/Guardian permission required
- Registration closes Friday 2/15 6pm
- Saipan only

PRO AM CUP

- Registration required
- Parent/Guardian permission required for under 16 years old
- Guam only

KIDS CUP

- Registration required
- Parent/Guardian permission required
- Registration closes 3/1

All forms available from PE teachers or download at www.nmivolleyball.org

Email Inquiries to nmivolleyball@gmail.com

TakeCare/FHP is second MMAC title sponsor

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer has gained another supporter in TakeCare/FHP.

The healthcare provider donated \$3,000 and presented it to MMAC committee members last Feb. 8.

This makes TakeCare/FHP the second title sponsor for the

annual event slated for April 26 to 27 at the Hopwood Jr. High School Field in Chalan Piao.

Title sponsorship is considered the event's highest level of sponsorship and is given to companies or individuals that donate \$3,000 or more in cash, products or services.

Besides their donation, TakeCare/FHP will also sponsor the annual cancer survivor dinner held in honor of cancer survi-

vors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment.

Additionally, the company will participate as a team in the 12-hour event, which is the signature fundraising activity of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a nonprofit group dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the

Northern Marianas.

2013 MMAC overall committee chairman Manny Borja said they are extremely grateful for the generous support that TakeCare/FHP has provided over the years.

"Their sponsorship of the survivor dinner is sincerely appreciated. We extend our utmost thanks to the staff and management of TakeCare/FHP for their donation," added Borja.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TakeCare/FHP staff led by clinic supervisor Nora Sablan presents the \$3,000 donation to the 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee headed by overall chair Manny Borja on Feb. 8.

Dance360 in the works

Church 360 has announced plans to start a dance team for young girls.

Worship leader and dance team visionary Kayla Wood said that Dance360 is open to all girls age 7 to 15 years old.

"Though undoubtedly a church ministry that will dance solely to Christian music, this team is open to all

girls interested in the art of dance," said Wood.

Dance360 will begin practicing on Monday, Feb. 18, at Church 360 located at Suite 103 of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Practice sessions are scheduled from 4:30pm to 6pm, with the first meeting to feature a 20-minute parent informa-

tion assembly.

Wood said she and professional dancer Allison Stearns will handle choreography and teaching.

"This is an opportunity to offer a free service to the public, pour into the lives of young girls within our community, and glorify God while we're at it!" she added.

Church 360 is a non-de-

nominational church founded in 2011 by Aaron and Kayla Wood after feeling the need for a gospel-centered, mission-focused church, with contemporary music and messages that seek to reach primarily Saipan's younger generations for Christ.

For more information, call (671) 888-2116 or email info@church360saipan.org. (Clarissa V. David)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Korean baseball team LG Twins and their families have their picture at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's lobby during their stay in January.

Fiesta Resort hosts LG Twins in January

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan was proud to host the players from the Korean baseball team LG Twins at the hotel in January. The Twins, based in Seoul, South Korea, arranged a long-term visit to Saipan, staying at the resort from Jan.

7 until Feb. 6, 2013.

LG Twins have traditionally left Korea during the harsh winter months, preferring to travel to Saipan for practice in the island's welcoming tropical climate. The players kept a grueling practice

schedule this year, waking in the early hours of each day for warm-ups and runs, and often ending the day with night training.

During the course of their visit, the resort was happy to provide the team with use of its

gym facilities for weight training, as well as superb meals at its restaurants. The resort also helped host a fan meeting between the Twins and their Korean fan base.

Fiesta Resort would like to wish the LG Twins good luck in the upcoming baseball season! (Fiesta Resort)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 13, 2004

CUC told to focus on environment, personnel

Engineering consultant Harris Group is advising the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to address environmental and personnel issues as it pursues the privatization of its main power plants in Lower Base. CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta, in a report to the CUC board, said that Harris Group advised the utility firm to look at the related environmental impacts of the project. In particular, it said CUC needs to check on the U.S. Clean Air Act and Pre-certification that would prove that bidders "have technology and experience with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Utilities commission proposed

The House of Representatives entertained the introduction of legislation proposing to establish a Public Utilities Commission--or a regulatory body seen to control rates imposed for water, electricity, cable television and telecommunication services. Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez, chairman of the standing committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, offered the bill during the lower chamber's 3pm session yesterday. He explained that the bill essentially seeks to create a commission that would mainly be responsible for setting utilities rate structure.

Feb. 13, 2005

\$10.9M proposed for salary hike, retro pay

House minority members are pushing for a nearly \$11 million appropriation to raise government employees' salaries and pay off retroactive compensation, retirement, and healthcare contributions of government employees. House Bill 14-304, authored by Rep. Jesus Attao, aims to allocate \$10.9 million to settle unpaid frozen steps, within-grade increases, and retroactive adjustments owed current and former employees in the last five years and 14 years, respectively, pursuant to Public Law 7-31. "It is only fair and appropriate for the government to settle the long overdue payments so that former and current employees can enjoy their rightful salary and to avoid any litigation," said Attao.

'CDA should write off CUC debts'

Saying that the money involved was a federal direct grant assistance that required no repayment, a lawmaker proposed that the Commonwealth Development Authority just write off a longstanding \$45 million principal loan of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. In a newly introduced House Bill 14-285, Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez said the loan was part of the \$140 million in direct assistance given to the CNMI by the federal government "without any repayment." He said that CDA merely acted as conduit for the distribution of these funds for infrastructure development in the CNMI. CDA, he said, distributed the funds to various government agencies besides CUC, "without requiring these agencies to pay back the funds given to them."

Feb. 13, 2007

Cohen: Most CNMI bonding firms are insolvent

In the event of a total shutdown of the garment industry, thousands of displaced alien workers would get stuck on island as neither the government nor the private bonding companies could easily repatriate them due to a lack of funds, according to Interior deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs David B. Cohen during a recent U.S. Senate hearing. "It will be quite a challenge. If they [garment workers] are to exit in the next few months and the 19 remaining factories close shops, it's really a challenge. I don't think that funds are sufficient. The bonding companies will not do the job because a lot of these companies are insolvent," said Cohen when asked by Sen. Jeff Bingaman if the CNMI would be able to handle the repatriation.

PHI belies claim that price of meds here 'prohibitive'

PHI Pharmacy has belied claims that the cost of medicines in the CNMI is prohibitive, branding the allegation as "ridiculous" and challenging those making the claim to prove it. PHI Pharmacy president and board member Bruce Cohen was reacting to a story published in the *Pacific Times* in its Feb. 9, 2007, edition that quoted California-based entrepreneur Sedy Demesa as saying that the cost of medicine in the CNMI could be 5,000 percent of the base cost compared with the U.S. mainland. Cohen said this is an "unfounded ridiculous statement," adding that these statements, made by a "non-pharmacist," would mean that what is being sold in California for \$10 is being sold for \$500 in the CNMI.

Hotel occupancy at 91 pct. in Jan.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 91.05 percent occupancy among its 12 member hotels for January 2013, a 6-percent increase from January 2012.

"Last month we saw the highest occupancy rate since 1997 and the highest hotel rate since 1998. This is a very positive sign

of recovery in the industry," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "However, we should not sit back and be satisfied. We must continue to improve our islands by cleaning up our tourist sites and villages, ensuring the safety of our visitors, and making visitors feel welcomed. We are grateful to those community groups, government offices, businesses, and individuals who are already doing this."

A total of 67,794 of 74,462 available room nights were sold in January 2013, compared to 63,586 of 74,462 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were \$128.53 during the month, com-

pared to \$124.02 last December.

In 2012 HANMI initiated a private-public partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority and other private entities for the rehabilitation of the Mt. Tapochau viewing summit, a project expected to be completed this month.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. (HANMI)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian Movie Night on Feb. 15

Tinian residents are invited to a Friday Movie Night on Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, at 6:30pm. The event, hosted by the Northern Marianas College's College Access Challenge Grant program, will be held at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheatre, Natibau Park. Aside from the feature film Battleship, the pre-movie activities will feature a 15-minute college awareness presentation about preparing for college (college success, student life, financial aid, time and money management, etc.).

The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments and

snacks will be sold by vendors. Please note that the film is rated PG-13, which means that minors under the age of 13 must be accompanied by parents or guardians.

If you have any questions, contact Hedwig Hofsneider of CACG at 234-5498 Ext. 1346 or Maria Aguon of NMC Tinian at 433-0649. (NMC)

DPL suspends accepting grazing permit applications on Saipan

The Department of Public Lands is temporarily suspending the acceptance of applications for agricultural and grazing permits

for subsistence purposes on public land, effective Feb. 18, 2013. This moratorium affects only those applying for AGPs on the island of Saipan. (DPL)

Public library offer rummage sale space

To coincide with the monthly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Book Sale, the library will be providing space for a rummage/parking lot sale on Feb. 23, 2013, from 7:30am to 1pm. The cost is \$25 for a 10x20 space. Reserve a slot as space is limited. All proceeds collected will be used for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and JKPL anniversary celebration. (JKPL)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 20th birthday to Justin Josh Aguon Greenman and may you have many more birthdays to come. May the Lord shower you with so much love and blessings on your special day! Enjoy your day and stay safe. We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Zenaida, Tinie, Craig, Nish, Stan Jr., Stace, Kika, Mart, Sus, Shawn, Esper, SJ, and Kimani. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**



Happy 24th birthday to Vanessa Lynn Camacho! Hope your day fills you up with brighter joy and better future! May God bless you and your beautiful family! Love you always and forever from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CCA board meeting on Feb. 19

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's Board of Directors will be holding its board of directors meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes election of officers, reports and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (CCA)

2 teens gets maximum 1-year sentence for burglarizing car

Two teenagers who broke into a vehicle and stole several items were slapped Monday with a maximum sentence of one year in prison.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho admonished Juan Franklin C. Pua and David Jordan Lizama to learn from this case and become productive members of the community.

"It is possible to make a mistake and learn from it, and never again commit a crime for the rest of your life," the judge said.

Pua, 19, and Lizama, 18, both pleaded guilty to theft as part of a plea deal.

The defendants were sentenced to one year in prison, without the possibility of parole, early release, work release, weekend release, or other similar program. Both were given credit for three days of times served. After serving the sentence,

Pua and Lizama will be placed on probation for five years.

Camacho ordered the court marshals to take the two into custody to immediately start serving their sentence at the Department of Corrections.

Pua asked if he could turn himself in in two weeks, but the judge denied the request.

Camacho told Pua that he comes from a family with a long tradition in law enforcement, especially with the Department of Public Safety's Police and Fire, and that it was difficult to understand why he would do something like this.

According to court papers, on July 15, 2012, on Saipan, Pua, Lizama, and a co-defendant entered a vehicle and stole a necklace, betel nut pouch, CD player, tachometer, two air filters, and driver's side headlights. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Job Vacancy Announcement (Revised February 6, 2013)

JVA No. 13-006

Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

Deputy Executive Director

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Reporting directly to CUC's Executive Director or designee, the Deputy Executive Director ("DED") fills a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the *United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

- Primarily responsible for overseeing, all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. Responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding CWA and SDWA compliance issues. Has authority to make decisions for management and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Provides staff assistance to the Executive Director to include: coordinating activities between CUC and outside organizations and agencies; researching and preparing recommendations on operational directives; and, preparing and presenting staff reports.
- Assumes full management responsibility over divisions as delegated by the Executive Director. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through department heads by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems.
- Directs and implements maintenance plans; evaluates maintenance programs to ensure maintenance standards are enforced.
- Participates on a variety of boards and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings.
- Serves as the Executive Director when the Executive Director is out of the CNMI.
- Performs short and long-range strategic planning.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Deputy Executive Director must have the following:

- Master's degree in management, engineering, finance or public administration, or, in the alternative, a bachelor's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.
- Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years desired in similar wastewater and drinking water utility (combined utility is preferred), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resources needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training, and implementation needs.
- A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate is desired, but not mandatory.
- Must demonstrate: Proven management and communications skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Experience with managing major water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with water and wastewater systems, user fee system development, bond funding, staff training and development, and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.
- Experience with user fee system development and bond funding is desired, but not mandatory.
- Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations.
- Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.
- A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of \$70,000.00 to \$130,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both un-graded and un-classified.

POSITION:

One position on a two-year contract; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

- United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

- Fax: 670-235-5131

- Drop Off:
Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Choose a new pope for modern times



Pope Benedict XVI's stunning decision to step down gives the Roman Catholic Church the opportunity to choose a progressive leader who's more in step with how churchgoers really live their lives in the 21st century.

American Catholics especially would benefit from the selection of a pope ready to talk openly about religious values in modern times. U.S. Catholics' support for the use of birth control and for women as priests, for example, have long been ignored and criticized by the Vatican.

Unfortunately, the College of Cardinals is populated with many of Benedict's like-minded followers, who may be more in tune with continuing very conservative church doctrines. While certainly many people worldwide embrace these teachings, the church has been missing opportunities to reach out to more progressive Catholics not just in the United States but also in Europe and Latin America.

Benedict will leave behind a mixed record on major spiritual and church-related issues. Many Americans are disturbed by the church's inability to effectively deal with the priest abuse scandals that have victimized thousands of children, soiled the reputation of the church and financially damaged it.

The pope had more success in promoting the values of prayer and Christianity, with a special focus on bringing Europeans back to the church.

The Catholic Church, like many other religions around the globe, faces many challenges in the hustle-bustle world of today. They include wooing people to attend religious services and getting people to contribute time and money to the valuable outreach efforts of their churches.

Benedict's resignation offers the Catholic Church the chance to hit the "reset" button and find a new leader who's ready to embrace those challenges. Selecting a modern-day pope could create a more vibrant future for the church.

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Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays the E-Mailman from the swift completion of his appointed rounds.



Ash Wednesday

By JAIME R. VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Many of our friends and colleagues among the faithful in Christendom today shall be sporting a symbol of the cross on their foreheads made with ashes. The Torah line was an objective statement to *Remember that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return* in the familiar King James rendition. Christian Churches then added the admonition to *Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel*.

It is Ash Wednesday in the Christian liturgy, 46 days before Easter, starting a 40-day fast culminating on Palm Sunday morning that remembers the triumphal entry into Jerusalem during Holy Week. The palm fronds to welcome the donkey-riding Messiah are kept and burnt into ashes to be used for the next Ash Wednesday to mark the crosses on the faithful's foreheads, they who understand the life journey from baptism, confirmation, covenant, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

Fast, to the unfamiliar, is a period of reflection, meditation, contemplation, (prayer in Christian liturgy) understood by my secular friends as moments of profound silence, of detachment and distancing from the immediate, an assumption of the cloak of transcendence in perspective, and intense quiet engagement of full consciousness, the *elan* of the immanent human spirit that clears the cobwebs of the soul!

We may want to skip the poetry, but Saipan is abuzz with the House's impeachment proceedings. We are reminded of T. S. Eliot's much-quoted *Hollow Men* that begins:

We are the hollow men
We are the stuffed men
Leaning together
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!

Devoid of moralism, we are in accord with the acts of the Legislature. The mandate of voters in the last election was instructive, and Uncle Ben did look like a *stuffed man* (my judgment) but there is a feel of shallowness about his indictment from men and women of a sector that has shown itself through the years to be too self-serving to merit serious consideration.

The Senate hearing might just end with our paraphrased T.S. Elliott: *This is the way the proceedings end
Not with a bang but a whimper.*

We tend to be sympathetic to Benigno Fitial, not only for his critical place in the Chamoru/Carolinian divide, but also personally for his cervical stenosis since we also suffer from cervical spondylosis! Not to forget the wisdom of marrying Pinay Josie! We are, however, on record of being on the other end of the political spectrum. T.S. Eliot, after he joined the Anglican Church, penned his *Ash Wednesday* poem ending:

Because I know that time is always time

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jivergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



*And place is always and only place
And what is actual is actual only for one time
And only for one place
I rejoice that things are as they are and
I renounce the blessed face
And renounce the voice
Because I cannot hope to turn again
Consequently I rejoice, having to construct something
Upon which to rejoice.*

It is, perhaps, appropriate that this hiatus from productive legislation is happening in the season of Lent. The Legislature and the CNMI are busy constructing something upon which to rejoice!

Rejoice is a Shrove/Fat Tuesday state of being, the day before Ash Wednesday to be picked up again on Palm Sunday. The Mardi Gras in New Orleans and the Carnival in Rio are bangs before the whimper! Our rejoicing this week came from the Vatican.

Pope Benedict XVI has not been one of our favorite pontiffs. Erstwhile Cardinal Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger, longtime Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (1981-2005) before his election to the papacy, in our Methodist and reformation view, had been a reactionary cleric who negated Vatican II advances. But he redeems himself in our eyes in acknowledging his inability to function to meet the demands of his office by virtue of health and age, and decided to do something about it. He resigned effective the end of the month. We rejoice.

No longer a practicing communicant even in universal Christendom, with a foot long ago in the scientific, urban, and secular world of eco-democracy, I have no claim on relevance nor integrity to speak for or even within the Christian communion, though we were once ordained in its priesthood. However, the universality of its gospel, *neither Jew nor gentile*, allows us in freedom and responsibility to engage in the continuing conversation over the efficacy of its powerful symbols like Ash Wednesday.

From dust we came and to dust we shall return, indeed! S/he who is without sin cast the first stone.

Mt. Carmel High School's distinguished alumnus and alleged Catholic faithful Ben Fitial might consider the discourse in this season of Lent, might heed the season's dramaturgical pronouncement, and act accordingly.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Senate vs appointments

The Senate may be running aground on the reef of “political expediency,” favoring shallow interpretation of law over following a court-adjudicated decision on the matter on late appointments.

Its impending action in the confirmation of a DPW secretary now relies on the AG’s assertion that the 30-day provision is “silent.” Thus it seems safe to proceed with the confirmation process. But renomination is prohibited per the court’s ruling unless it is amended by legislation.

If the consideration of a nominee falls within the broader 90-day period, no harm is done and we all walk away from the minor infraction to live happily ever after. But the issue falls outside the 90-day safety net. This presents serious legal issues requiring further review.

The AG’s view that the 30-day requirement is “silent” in the renomination process is non-sequitur. Wasn’t the AG a party to the original nomination? Ignoring it the second time via a shallow interpretation of the law doesn’t vacate nor render null and void a court-adjudicated decision on this matter.

Is the Senate subscribing to an interpretation (for purposes of convenience) that only demonstrates that junior lawyers aren’t quite suited in their craft? Does the hollow view trump the court decision?

Well, I am taking this matter to court (certified question) or otherwise known as “taxpayer’s lawsuit” to clear the air once and for all. It’s wise to hold off confirmation of the nominee until this issue clears the court.

■■■

‘Talking Sense’

The book *Talking Sense* examines truths we don’t recognize and fallacies we accept, realizing that politics and economics are opposites. That’s what makes politics interesting: people are always

trying to convince us to do the wrong things for what they say are the right reasons.

We’re human: we don’t always think things through, so we accept many ideas that are, well, wrong. We also look past certain truths without recognizing them. Too, we prefer accolades versus embracing personal responsibility to building something that benefits our fellow man as he moves forward.

In the process, we’ve developed and cemented the culture of *manana*, to our detriment. We ignore substantive issues that eventually turn into beasts that now haunt us. We simply fail to recognize the powerful objective of moral reality (as opposed to our own self-centered subjective reality). People who embrace the former have ably created lives and careers based on “right action.” As a natural consequence, they are getting “right results.”

The process entails a simple journey by first being honest with the self—taking full responsibility for your own actions and facing the truth about yourself. That is what matters. While it may be true that you can’t change human nature, we do know it is possible to change people’s thinking, and through that, their conversation and behavior so that by doing the right thing, total honesty can be achieved.

Understandably, we should expect the emergence of the culture of facelessness—when your representative no longer listens to governance, you and I, so he understands our ideas and concerns; cronyism, nepotism and corruption. They have gotten too big for their pants and are out as lone rangers ignoring the “consent of the governed.”

It’s here where they learn the art of evasive quick fixes. Is this a microcosm of what lies ahead? Do we collectively, under an organized plan involving all key sectors of the community, have a goal? If not, then how can we measure if we’ve won or not? Indelibly, this is the hallmark of this administration. Eh, do we “Let It Be?” Was this what we bargained for three years ago?

arm of the church, had a difficult job to fulfill. Behind him was a Fisherman whose shoes he could never fill, before him a road of controversy and criticism, especially from we in the democratic west who were angered at the exploding sex abuse scandal, the refusal to ordain women as priests and the disaffection of so many cradle and cafeteria Catholics.

Benedict had neither the charisma nor the stamina of his predecessor, and there were even those who stooped so low as to point out the difference between the anti-communist battles of John Paul II and the fact that, as a boy, the young pope once belonged to the Hitler Youth.

Benedict met his critics with grace, something that those who had observed him during his decades at the Vatican never suspected. For the longest time the “Rottweiler” had been viewed as a severe man who imposed draconian punishments on those who diverged from official church teachings. It didn’t help that he wasn’t the athletic, engaging Renaissance Man he served for almost 30 years and who was truly beloved by his people.

And yet, Benedict did something that John Paul never did: he apologized for the horrible crimes committed against the most innocent among us, the children. In 2010, he wrote a letter to the victims of abuse at the hands of the Irish Catholic church and called what had happened “sinful and criminal acts” and criticized the bishops for “grave errors in judgment and failures of leadership.” It wasn’t enough for a lot of people, especially here in the United States where we expect public executions in the town square.

But it was much more than any other pontiff had ever done.

This, above all other things, should be his legacy. Benedict was a man who understood human frailty far better than most because he dealt with it for so many years as the leader of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith. He also saw how humans can be twisted into evil facsimiles of themselves by surviving the Nazi scourge. And he understood, in the final years of a life devoted to Christ, that we need to ask forgiveness before we can be forgiven.

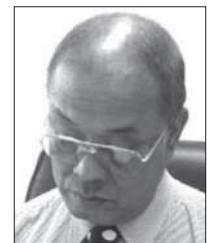
I do not have the same sad feeling of loss as I did when John Paul II passed away. But I am only now beginning to realize the caliber of the man who was a good caretaker of what we in the Catholic family hold sacred. God bless and keep him.

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Vapor of corruption on bids

A businessman had this to say about my take on transparency on procurement of government bids and land leases. I thought it fair that I also share it with you. He noted that it takes courage and conviction to advocate eradicating depravity in government whether it relates to contracts, land leases and law enforcement.

“But you also overlooked the other side of the fence where filth is equally teeming with the vapor of corruption. There’s the group closely associated with the governor who rely on his filthy tentacles to secure contracts for his minions.

“The other group is rumored to have public officials in their pockets that equally expect the delivery of contract awards. Some are overly anxious to see confirmation of a certain nominee, though such appointment is adjudicated as illegal by a court decision. But both circulate like vultures watching how the filthy swamp downstairs shifts tide.

“So how do you impose transparency and abide by the laws of the NMI on bid proposals when two vicious groups rely upon corruption to land locally or federally funded projects? Evidently, what’s the wisdom of awarding federal tax dollars to foreign-owned firms over poised local firms? Foreign-owned money is repatriated to home country; locally-owned money is spent and circulated locally.

“There’s clarity in your explanation to root out corruption and enthusiasm in your conviction to ensure that key players on both sides of the bidding or leasing process follow the law. Yet the same clarity fogged out when you ignored exposing both sides of the fence where filth has thickened with the vile of political corruption over doing what’s right. How do you stop questionable businessmen who cozy up with public officials to secure undeterred favors via silent cash in what’s known as kickbacks?”

I took note of such suggestion and would even push for critical review of the characters of what some players term “dangerous” people partaking in the bidding process. Or am I looking at a two-headed snake of corruption that turns transparency on its head? The maggots have started crawling and it would be interesting to see where they land. I will have no hesitancy exposing filthy deals regardless of political stripes or association.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No public benefit

Impeachment of the governor is not supported by the majority of our people in the CNMI. I believe I speak for the majority of our people who couldn’t care less whether the governor is impeached or not. Our people in the CNMI want an effective government that would alleviate the hardship that we encounter on a daily basis, such as excessive CUC billing, high price of gasoline, unemployment, you name them—but not impeaching the governor.

Only a few lawmakers who dislike the governor made the call to impeach him but certainly not by the majority of our people. Therefore, the Senate must look hard into these allegations against the governor should there be a trial in the Senate because of its unpopularity in the public. Impeachment must follow the sentiment of the public and I haven’t seen a public outcry for Governor Fitial’s resignation or impeachment. So, without the public backing, impeaching the governor has no merit.

If we allow our governor to be impeached without public support, then we are demonstrating to the world how incompetent we are in dealing with our internal affairs and how unstable our government is to potential foreign investors. There are too many political infighting amongst ourselves that we fail to see what public benefit will result from our actions. Impeaching the governor is not in the best interest of our island people. Let’s work for our people, not against them.

Enrique Seman
Garapan, Saipan

Business

Need surgery? Good luck getting hospital cost info

CHICAGO (AP)—Want to know how much a hip replacement will cost? Many hospitals won't be able to tell you, at least not right away—if at all. And if you shop around and find centers that can quote a price, the amounts could vary astronomically, a study found.

Routine hip replacement surgery on a healthy patient without insurance may cost as little as \$11,000—or up to nearly \$126,000.

That's what researchers found after calling hospitals

in every state, 122 in all, asking what a healthy 62-year-old woman would have to pay to get an artificial hip. Hospitals were told the made-up patient was the caller's grandmother, had no insurance but could afford to pay out of pocket—that's why knowing the cost information ahead of time was so important.

About 15 percent of hospitals did not provide any price estimate, even after a researcher called back as many as five times.

The researchers were able to obtain a complete price estimate including physician fees from close to half the hospitals. But in most cases, that took contacting the hospital and doctor separately.

"Our calls to hospitals were often greeted by uncertainty and confusion," the researchers wrote. "We were frequently transferred between departments, asked to leave messages that were rarely returned, and told that prices could not be estimated without an office visit."

Many hospitals "are just completely unprepared" for cost questions, said Jaime Rosenthal, a Washington University student who co-authored the report.

Most hospitals aren't intentionally hiding costs, they're just not used to patients asking. That's particularly true for patients with health insurance who "don't bother to ask because they know insurance

will cover it," said co-author Dr. Peter Cram, a researcher at the University of Iowa's medical school.

But he said that's likely to change as employers increasingly force workers to share more health care costs by paying higher co-payments and deductibles, making patients more motivated to ask about costs.

The study was published online Monday in *JAMA Internal*

Medicine. A California study published last year about surgery to remove an appendix found similar cost disparities.

Commenting on the study, American Hospital Association spokeswoman Marie Watteau said hospitals "have a uniform set of charges. Sharing meaningful information, however, is challenging because hospital care is unique and based on each individual patient's needs."

Study: 1 in 4 consumers had error in credit report

WASHINGTON (AP)—One in four consumers found an error in a credit report issued by a major agency, according to a government study released Monday.

The Federal Trade Commission study also said that 5 percent of the consumers identified errors in their reports that could lead to them paying more for mortgages, auto loans or other financial products.

The study looked at reports for 1,001 consumers issued by the three major—Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. The FTC hired researchers to help consumers identify potential errors.

The study closely matches the results of a yearlong investigation by The Columbus Dispatch. The Ohio newspaper's report last year said that thousands of consumers were denied loans because of errors

on their credit reports.

The FTC says the findings underline the importance of consumers checking their credit reports.

Consumers are entitled to a free copy of their credit report each year from each of the three reporting agencies.

The FTC study also found that 20 percent of consumers had an error that was corrected by a reporting agency after the consumer disputed it. About 10 percent of consumers had their credit score changed after a reporting agency corrected errors in their reports.

The Consumer Data Industry Association, which represents the credit reporting agencies and other data companies, said the FTC study showed that the proportion of credit reports with errors that could increase the rates consumers would pay was small.

The study confirmed "that credit reports are highly accurate, and play a critical role in facilitating access to fair and affordable consumer credit," the association said in a statement.

Experian, a British company with international operations, also said in a statement the study confirms that consumer credit reports are predominantly accurate. At the same time Experian said it "is not satisfied with this result and we continue to work toward ensuring credit reports are 100 percent accurate."

The new U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has the authority to write and enforce rules for the credit reporting industry. In September the agency began ongoing monitoring of the credit agencies' compliance. It's the first time they have faced such close federal oversight.

Irish unions lead marches to protest austerity

DUBLIN (AP)—Trade unionists marched in Ireland's capital Saturday to protest the continuing high cost of the country's crippling bank bailout program.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions, representing a third of Ireland's 2 million-strong workforce, called for "Lift the Burden" protests in Dublin and other cities, hoping to draw tens of thousands of people onto the streets.

The marches went ahead despite Thursday's agreement with the European Central Bank to restructure the loans used to bail out Ireland's failing banks, a deal expected to reduce the national debt by (EURO)20 billion (\$27 billion) in the coming decade and help the country's

expected exit from its own international bailout.

Irish police estimated that up to 20,000 people joined the Dublin march. Amid the red balloons and banners, one group carried a mockup of a large weight labeled "jobs not debt."

Marches organized by the congress were also happening in Cork, where the turnout was estimated at 6,000, and in Sligo where police said there was a similar level of participation. In Galway and Waterford, police estimated the crowds at 2,000.

The Congress had hoped as many as 100,000 would participate across the country. "It would be fatal for people to believe this issue is now resolved and we can all move on,"

said David Begg, the general secretary of the congress.

"At the onset of the crisis Ireland had one of the lowest debt to GDP (gross domestic product) ratios in Europe. The difference between then and now is due entirely to Ireland socializing bank debt at the behest of the ECB, to save the European banking system."

He contended that Irish taxpayers are 42 percent of the bank debt burden in the 27-nation European Union.

Ireland was forced to take the EU-IMF bailout in 2010 after the cost of rescuing six banks destroyed the government's own ability to borrow. Ireland ultimately was forced to nationalize five banks.

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Six current and former female sales representatives are accusing drugmaker Daiichi Sankyo of gender discrimination in a \$100 million class action lawsuit.

The lawsuit states the women are trying to end employment discrimination for themselves and several hundred other female sales reps who currently work for or have worked for the U.S. arm of Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. The Japanese pharmaceutical company makes cholesterol and blood pressure drugs.

The suit alleges that the company pays female sales staff less than men for the same work, promotes women more slowly and treats women who are pregnant or have young children worse than other employees.

A spokeswoman for Daiichi

Sankyo Inc., the U.S. subsidiary, said in a statement that it follows all laws regarding equal opportunity and non-discrimination. She said the company is reviewing the lawsuit but doesn't comment on pending litigation. Daiichi Sankyo Inc., based in Parsippany, N.J., has about 3,000 employees in the U.S.

Sanford Heisler, a law firm specializing in employment discrimination and whistleblower cases, filed the lawsuit Monday in federal court in San Francisco. The complaint demands a jury trial.

"Daiichi Sankyo reaps multi-billion dollar profits by relying upon a predominantly female sales force" in the U.S., the complaint states.

"Daiichi treats them largely

as props in a sales and marketing strategy. Like dinners, sports outings, and speaking fees, female sales reps are considered one of many variations on the inducements that the pharmaceutical company dangles to sway doctors to its brand. Daiichi asks its female sales reps to wine and dine male doctors; offer friendships and gifts to foster 'quid pro quo' relationships; and devote unbounded attention to obtain their allegiance to Daiichi's drugs," the complaint adds.

When female sales staff seek promotions or have children, the suit alleges, they hit a glass ceiling, with male employees holding nearly all U.S. management positions and controlling decisions on salary, promotions and terminations.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

13,971.24
-21.73
-0.16%

S&P

1,517.01
-0.92
-0.06%

NASDAQ

3,192.01
-1.87
-0.06%

EXCHANGE RATES

		Hong Kong Dollar	7.7548	Philippine Peso	40.73
Australian Dollar	0.9761	Indian Rupee	53.8736	Singapore Dollar	1.2441
British Pound	0.6392	Indonesian Rupiah	9619	South Korean Won	1094.31
Canadian Dollar	1.0065	Japanese Yen	94.0406	Swiss Franc	0.9206
Chinese Yuan	6.2372	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0982	Taiwan Dollar	29.775
Euro	0.7472	New Zealand Dollar	1.1972	Thailand Baht	29.845

In U.S. dollar terms

Nation

Obama to revive populist message in Tuesday speech

WASHINGTON (AP)—Reviving his populist re-election message, President Barack Obama will press a politically-divided Congress to approve more tax increases and fewer spending cuts during a State of the Union address focused on stabilizing the middle class and repairing the still-wobbly economy.

The agenda Obama will outline Tuesday before a joint session of Congress will include more money for infrastructure, clean energy technologies and manufacturing jobs, as well as expanding access to early childhood education.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama would outline “his plan to create jobs and grow the middle class” as the nation struggles with persistently high unemployment.

Some of Obama’s job ideas will be repackaged versions of proposals he made during his first term, though aides say there will be some new initiatives, too. All of the economic proposals are expected to echo themes from Obama’s re-election campaign, which focused on using increased spending to generate jobs, protecting pro-

Second term job approval

How President Barack Obama’s job approval by party ID compares with past presidents starting a second term; since Eisenhower, the partisan gap in approval has doubled:

Approval before 2nd inauguration	BY PARTY ID.			R-D gap
	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	
Obama, 2013	52%	14	88	48 D+74
Bush, 2005	50	89	17	47 R+72
Clinton, 1997	59	31	86	54 D+55
Reagan, 1985	62	88	39	61 R+49
Nixon, 1973	59	88	42	60 R+46
Johnson, 1965*	71	51	85	62 D+34
Eisenhower, 1957	73	91	57	82 R+34

*Figures for comparison; not official second term

Source: Pew Research Center poll, Jan. 9-13, 2013, of 1,502 adults; margin of error: +/-2.9 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treble

oil and gas breaks would generate about \$43 billion in revenue over 10 years.

Republicans have shown little sign of falling in line behind the president as he starts his second term, particularly when it comes to taxes.

“Clearly the president wants more revenue for more government,” Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said in an interview. “He’s gotten all the revenue he’s going to get. Been there, done that.”

The backdrop for Obama’s address will be a March 1 deadline for averting automatic across-the-board spending cuts, known as the sequester. The president wants lawmakers to push that deadline back for a second time to create space for a larger deficit-reduction deal, one he hopes would include a balance of targeted cuts and increased tax revenue. Republicans want to offset the sequester with spending cuts alone.

As he addresses lawmakers and the American people, Obama is expected to say that government entitlement programs should be on the table

in deficit reduction talks. But he will also make the case that programs that help the middle class, the poor and the elderly must be protected.

In keeping with that approach, the White House said Monday that Obama would not consider increasing the Medicare eligibility age as a way to reduce spending.

The president’s focus on the economy and deficit reflects the top concerns of many Americans. A Quinnipiac University poll out Monday showed that 35 percent of registered voters are most interested in hearing the president during the State of the Union address the economy, more than any other issue. The federal deficit came in second, with 20 percent saying that was the issue they were most interested in hearing Obama discuss.

The poll also suggested that the slow but steady economic gains throughout Obama’s first term may not be trickling down to many Americans. More than 50 percent of registered voters said they thought the economy was still in a recession and 79 percent described the economy as “not so good” or “poor.”

Military weighs cutbacks, shifts in drone programs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AP)—The Pentagon for the first time is considering scaling back the massive buildup of drones it has overseen in the past few years, both to save money and to adapt to changing security threats and an increased focus on Asia as the Afghanistan war winds down.

Air Force leaders are saying the military may already have enough unmanned aircraft systems to wage the wars of the future. And the Pentagon’s shift to Asia will require a new mix of drones and other aircraft because countries in that region are better able to detect unmanned versions and shoot them down.

If the Pentagon does slow

the huge building and deployment program, which was ordered several years ago by then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates, it won’t affect the CIA drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere against terror suspects. Those strikes were brought center stage last week during the confirmation hearing for White House counterterrorism chief John Brennan, President Barack Obama’s pick to lead the CIA.

Gen. Mike Hostage, commander of Air Combat Command, said senior leaders are analyzing the military’s drone needs and discussions are beginning. But he said the current number patrolling the skies

overseas may already be more than the service can afford to maintain.

Overall, Pentagon spending on unmanned aircraft has jumped from \$284 million in 2000 to nearly \$4 billion in the past fiscal year, while the number of drones owned by the Pentagon has rocketed from less than 200 in 2002 to at least 7,500 now. The bulk of those drones are small, shoulder-launched Ravens owned by the Army.

The discussions may trigger heated debate because drones have become so important to the military. They can provide 24-hour patrols over hotspots, gather intelligence by pulling in millions of terabytes of data and

hours of video feeds, and they can also launch precisely targeted airstrikes without putting a U.S. pilot at risk.

The analysis began before Brennan’s confirmation hearings, where he was questioned sharply about the CIA’s use of drones to kill terror suspects, including American citizens overseas. The CIA has its own fleet of drones that it uses on its counterterrorism missions, and any decision to stop building drones would be unlikely to have any effect on that program.

The Air Force discussions are focused more on whether the military’s drone fleet is the right size and composition for future conflicts.

Fugitive ex-LA cop charged with murder of officer

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—Hundreds of tips prompted by a \$1 million reward poured in to authorities seeking help finding the most wanted man in America, an ex-Los Angeles police officer who was charged Monday with murdering a Riverside policeman.

With thousands of officers around Southern California searching for Christopher Dorner, prosecutors in Riverside announced charges for last week’s killing. Dorner also was charged with attempted murder for wounding another officer and firing at two others, Riverside County District Attorney Paul Zellerbach said.

Authorities obtained a no-bail arrest warrant, which allows Dorner to be apprehended any-

where, Zellerbach said.

The manhunt for Dorner, 33, began last Wednesday when he was named the suspect in the Orange County murders of a former Los Angeles police captain’s daughter and her fiance the previous weekend. Hours after police announced they were looking for him, Dorner first fired at two LAPD officers, then ambushed the Riverside officers.

“By both his words and conduct, he has made very clear to us that every law enforcement officer in Southern California is in danger of being shot and killed,” Zellerbach said.

at a news conference that was guarded by four officers armed with rifles.

Police say Dorner wrote a lengthy manifesto that was posted to Facebook after the double murder. He vowed deadly revenge on those in the LAPD responsible for his firing years earlier, and their families. Police now are providing protection for some 50 families thought to be targets.

The search for Dorner was focused in the mountains near Big Bear Lake about 80 miles east of Los Angeles after his burned-out truck was found there last Thursday. Authorities are searching

more than 30 square miles day and night in the ski resort area and checking on roughly 600 cabins.

Police and city officials believe the reward, raised from public and private sources, will encourage citizens to stay vigilant. More than 700 tips had come in since the reward was announced.

“Now it’s like the game show ‘Who Wants to be a Millionaire,’” said Anthony Burke, supervisory inspector for the U.S. Marshals regional fugitive taskforce. “Instead of one contestant, we’ve got 100,000, and there’s only one question you have to answer. All they have to answer is where he’s at, and we can take it from there.”



Dorner

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Child, 10, killed in random Minn. shooting

OAKDALE, Minn. (AP)—A gunman apparently firing randomly at vehicles killed a 10-year-old and wounded the child’s mother and another woman Monday night, Oakdale’s police chief said. The suspect was in custody. Several bursts of gunfire erupted about 6:10 p.m. near a Rainbow Foods store in the eastern Twin Cities suburb, KMSP-TV reported. The gunman fired at a car carrying the 10-year-old and the child’s mother, Oakdale Police Chief Bill Sullivan said. The child died and the mother was wounded in the arm, said Sullivan, who would not say whether the child was a boy or a girl. A woman in another car was struck and wounded in the hand, Sullivan said. Both women are expected to recover, he said.

2 charged in slaying of Chicago honor student

CHICAGO (AP)—Two Chicago gang members charged Monday in the death of a 15-year-old honor student mistook her and her friends for members of a rival gang and attacked the group in retaliation for a shooting that injured one of the men over the summer, according to police. Hadiya Pendleton died after being shot in a park about a mile from the Chicago home of President Barack Obama on Jan. 29, just days after she performed during his inauguration festivities in Washington. Her death was among dozens of homicides in Chicago last month, though her background and ties to Obama thrust her death into the national headlines. Michael Ward, 18, and Kenneth Williams, 20, were taken into custody late Saturday, while on their way to a strip club—and just hours after first lady Michelle Obama and other dignitaries attended Pendleton’s funeral. Both men are now charged with first-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder and aggravated battery with a firearm, Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy said Monday night.

3 dead in courthouse shooting in Delaware

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—A gunman who spent years in court battles over custody disputes opened fire Monday in the lobby of a Delaware courthouse, leaving two women dead before being fatally shot, authorities said. “He walked right up the first victim and shot her point-blank right in the chest. He then turned around and shot a second woman who was approximately 10 feet away,” said Bill Heriot, who says he was waiting to enter the New Castle County Courthouse on Monday morning. He said the heavy-set man, who appeared to be in his 50s, pulled out a semiautomatic pistol and fired a single shot at each victim. Heriot said the shooter then exchanged gunfire with police before falling to the floor.

Asia

North Korea apparently conducts third atomic test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea apparently conducted a widely anticipated nuclear test Tuesday, strongly indicated by an “explosion-like” earthquake that monitoring agencies around the globe said appeared to be unnatural.

There was no confirmation from Pyongyang that it had conducted the underground test, which it has been threatening for weeks.

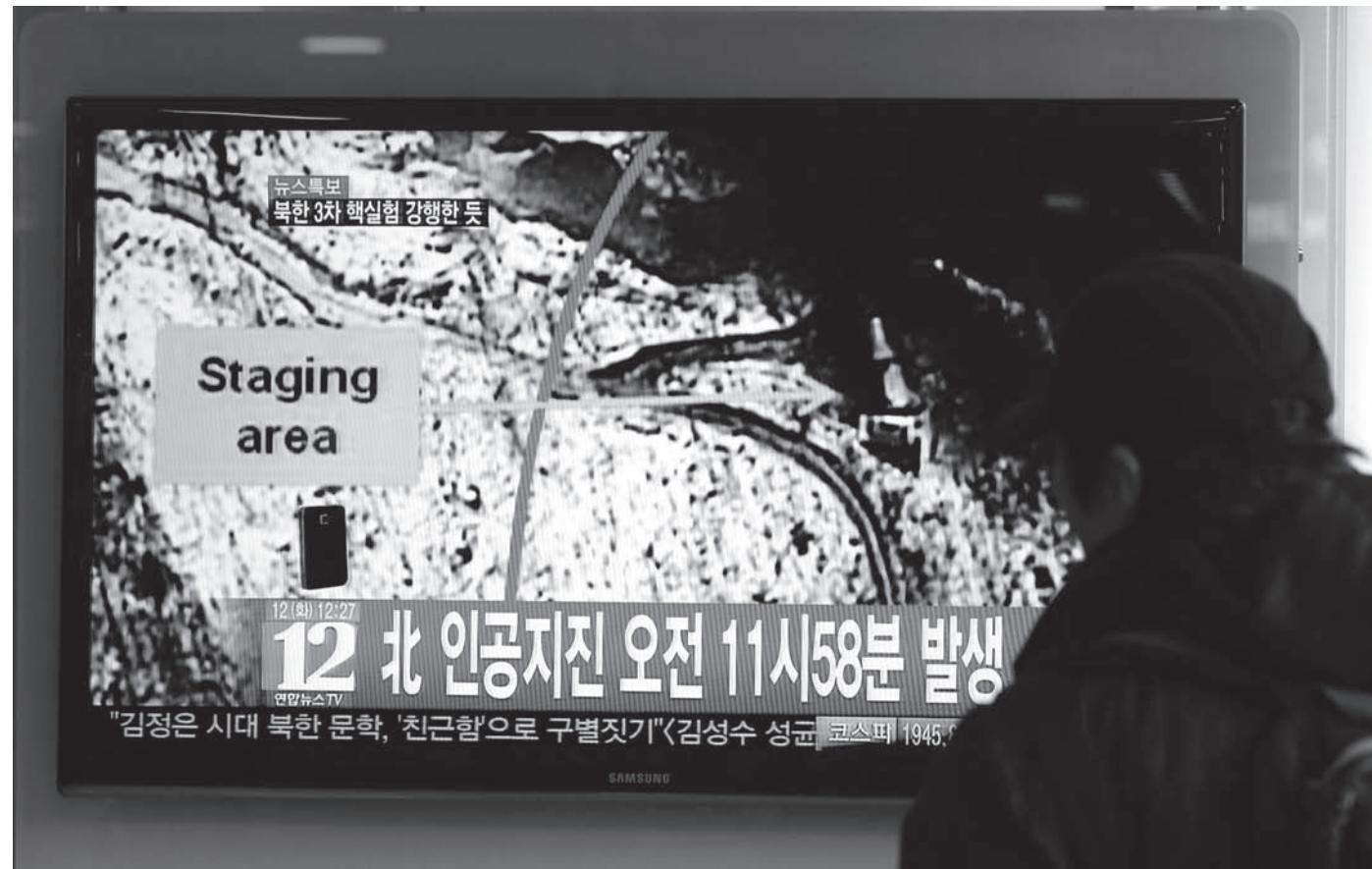
Any test would be seen as another big step toward North Korea’s goal of building a warhead that can be mounted on a missile. It would also be a bold signal from young leader Kim Jong Un, who took power in December 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong Il.

The South Korean Defense Ministry, which raised its military alert level after the quake, said it was trying to determine whether it was a test. Nuclear blasts can create tremors but they are distinct from those caused by natural earthquakes.

■■■

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea is confirming that North Korea has tested a nuclear device in defiance of U.N. orders to stop building atomic weapons.

South Korea’s presidential security adviser Chun Yung-woo says Tuesday’s nuclear



AP

A South Korean passenger watches TV news reporting an earthquake in North Korea, at the Seoul train station in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013.

test has been confirmed and that it cannot be tolerated. He provided no details on how Seoul confirmed the test.

A nuclear test could take North Korea closer to its goal of building a nuclear warhead that can be mounted on a

long-range missile.

■■■

A nuclear test would also be a challenge to the U.N. Security Council, which recently punished Pyongyang for launching a long-

range rocket seen as a covert test of ballistic missile technology. In condemning that December rocket launch and imposing more sanctions on Pyongyang, the council had demanded a stop

to future launches and ordered North Korea to respect a ban on nuclear activity—or face “significant action” by the U.N.

A world nuclear test monitoring organization said it detected

what it called an “unusual seismic event” in North Korea.

“The event shows clear explosion-like characteristics and its location is roughly congruent with the 2006 and 2009 DPRK nuclear tests,” said Tibor Tóth, the executive secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization. The DPRK refers to North Korea’s formal name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

“If confirmed as a nuclear test, this act would constitute a clear threat to international peace and security, and challenges efforts made to strengthen global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular by ending nuclear testing,” Tóth said.

Kim Min-seok, a South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman, told reporters that North Korea informed China and the United States of its plans to conduct a nuclear test. It was not clear when Pyongyang told Beijing and Washington.

The U.S. Geological Survey as well as earthquake monitoring stations in South Korea detected an earthquake near a site where North Korea conducted its second nuclear test in 2009, according to the government-funded Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources.

US ships military equipment out of Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The United States began its withdrawal from Afghanistan in earnest, officials said Monday, sending the first of what will be tens of thousands of containers home through a once-blocked land route through Pakistan.

The shipment of 50 containers over the weekend came as a new U.S. commander took control of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan to guide the coalition through the end stages of a war that has so far lasted more than 11 years.

The containers were in the first convoys to cross into Pakistan as part of the Afghan pullout, said Marcus Spade, a spokesman

for U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, meanwhile, faced his first headache just one day after taking command, after an Afghan government panel acknowledged that detainees taken off the battlefield by coalition and Afghan troops face widespread torture at the hands of local security forces—although it denied systematic torture in government-run prisons.

Dunford’s predecessor, Marine Gen. John Allen, had urged the Afghan government to investigate allegations of detainee abuse.

Allen also had to deal with the delicate task of improving relations with Pakistan, which

closed two key land routes from Afghanistan to its southern port of Karachi to all U.S. and NATO cargo for seven months. The Pakistani move came in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani troops at a post along the Afghan border in November 2011. Islamabad reopened the route after Washington apologized for the deaths.

During the closure of the Pakistan route, the U.S. had to use a longer, more costly path that runs north out of Afghanistan through Central Asia and Russia. The U.S. has also used that route to withdraw equipment—but not at the pace it wanted because of the length of the process.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said last year that the rerouting was costing the U.S. more than \$100 million a month.

It’s unclear what took the U.S. so long to begin withdrawing equipment through the Pakistan route, which runs south out of Afghanistan to the Pakistani port city of Karachi. Supplies have been flowing into Afghanistan since the route reopened in July 2012, and the U.S. signed a new deal with Pakistan governing the shipments that same month. There have been temporary disruptions at several points since then because of security concerns and strikes by truckers over compensation.

Team braves wet, cold retracing Shackleton’s steps

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—It’s been lauded as one of the greatest survival stories of all-time.

Nearly 100 years later, a group of British and Australian adventurers have discovered why. They re-enacted Ernest Shackleton’s journey to save his crew when their ship got stuck and sank in Antarctica’s icy waters.

Tim Jarvis and Barry “Baz” Gray reached an old whaling station on remote South Georgia island Monday, 19 days after leaving Elephant Island. Just as Shackleton did in 1916, Jarvis and his team sailed 800 nautical

miles (1,300 kilometers) across the Southern Ocean in a small lifeboat and then climbed over crevasse-filled mountains in South Georgia.

The modern-day team of six used similar equipment and clothes. But the harsh conditions forced several of them to abandon their attempt along the way.

“It was epic, really epic, and we’ve arrived here against the odds,” Jarvis told his project manager Kim McKay after reaching the station, adding that “we had more than 20 crevasses up to our knees and Baz fell into a crevasse up to his armpits.”

McKay said Jarvis was suffering frostbite in his right foot after the journey. He planned Tuesday to hike to the grave site of Shackleton, who was buried on the island years after his journey.

Jarvis wasn’t the only one suffering foot problems. Three of the men couldn’t complete the climb after suffering the ailment trench foot, caused by prolonged exposure to cold and wet conditions.

“The boat was only 22 1/2 feet (6.8 meters) long. At any one time, only four men could be below deck, while the other two had to be on deck. They had

8-meter (26-foot) waves crashing onto the boat,” McKay said. “It was like they were playing a game of twister. If one moved, they all had to move. They were constantly wet and cold and they all arrived with varying degrees of trench foot.”

Shackleton completed the climb without a tent. Jarvis and his team were planning to do the same but were forced to use modern-day tents and sleeping bags when a blizzard hit. One member of the team turned back and then later rejoined Jarvis and Gray with more provisions and wearing modern-day clothing.

ASIAN BRIEFS

3 dead in Indian Kashmir protests after man hanged

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Three young people have died in violence in Indian-controlled Kashmir despite a curfew that continued for a third day Monday following the execution of a Kashmiri man convicted in a deadly 2001 attack on India’s Parliament. Mohammed Afzal Guru was hanged in New Delhi early Saturday. Ahead of the execution, authorities had anticipated anti-India protests and ordered people in most of the Indian-held part of the disputed Kashmir region to remain indoors indefinitely. Despite the curfew, protests and clashes between troops and demonstrators broke out at a dozen places in the region Monday. Police and paramilitary soldiers fired tear gas and used batons to chase away rock-throwing protesters, police said.

US ships military equipment out of Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The United States began its withdrawal from Afghanistan in earnest, officials said Monday, sending the first of what will be tens of thousands of containers home through a once-blocked land route through Pakistan. The shipment of 50 containers over the weekend came as a new U.S. commander took control of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan to guide the coalition through the end stages of a war that has so far lasted more than 11 years. The containers were in the first convoys to cross into Pakistan as part of the Afghan pullout, said Marcus Spade, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Pakistani Taliban warn shops not to sell Viagra

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—The head of a trade association for a large market in northwestern Pakistan says the Taliban have warned shopkeepers not to sell sex-related drugs like Viagra, or obscene films. Shamsher Khan Afzadi says he received a text message from the Pakistani Taliban on Saturday with the warning. Afzadi said Monday that he distributed a pamphlet to thousands of shopkeepers in the Karkhano market in Peshawar city asking them to comply with the order. Afzadi said the Taliban’s message warned that selling sex-related drugs and obscene movies was against Islam.

World

Papal resignation opens door to many contenders

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI's resignation opens the door to an array of possible successors, from the conservative cardinal of Milan to a contender from Ghana and several Latin Americans. But don't count on a radical change of course for the Catholic Church: Benedict appointed the majority of cardinals who will choose his successor from within their own ranks.

There's no clear front-runner, though several leading candidates have been mentioned over the years as "papabile"—or having the qualities of a pope.

So, will the papacy return to Italy, after three decades of a Polish and a German pope? Or does Latin America, which counts some 40 percent of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics, deserve one of their own at the church's helm?

Will a younger cardinal be considered, now that future popes can feel freer to resign? Or will it again go to an experienced cardinal for another "transitional" papacy?

The 110-plus cardinals who are under age 80 and eligible to vote will weigh all those questions and more when they sequester themselves in the Sistine Chapel next month to choose Benedict's successor, a conclave that will likely produce a new pope by Easter.

Some said Benedict's resignation presents an opportunity to turn to Africa or Latin America, where Catholicism is more vibrant.

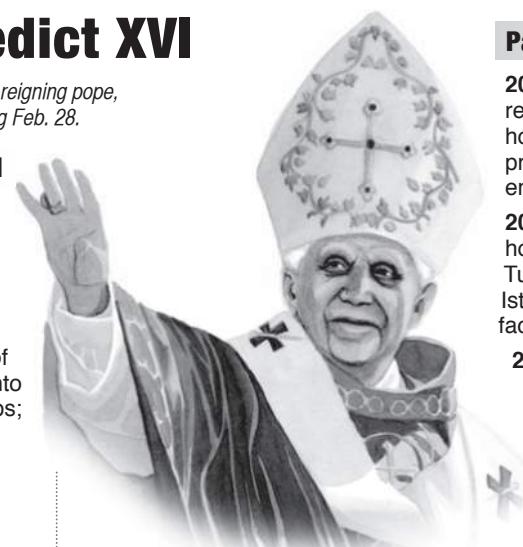
"Europe today is going through a period of cultural tiredness, ex-

Pope Benedict XVI

Pope Benedict XVI, the 265th reigning pope, announced he will be resigning Feb. 28.

Youth and priesthood

1927 Born Joseph Alois Ratzinger, in Marktl am Inn, Germany
1939 Enters minor seminary
1943 He and members of seminary class drafted into German anti-aircraft corps; deserts army and briefly held by American forces in prisoner of war camp
1951 Ordained into priesthood
1953 Doctorate in theology from University of Munich
1972 Becomes one of the cofounders of Catholic theology journal Communio
2002 Elected Dean of the College of Cardinals
2005 Elected pope; chooses name Pope Benedict XVI



Papal journeys

2005 Germany
2006 Poland, Spain, Germany, Turkey
2007 Brazil, Austria
2008 U.S., Australia, France
2009 Cameroon, Angola, Middle East, Czech Republic
2010 Malta, Portugal, Cyprus, U.K., Spain
2011 Croatia, San Marino, Spain, Germany, Benin
2012 Mexico, Cuba, Lebanon

Papal years

2005 Vatican imposes restrictions on homosexuals becoming priests; first papal encyclical, "God is Love"
2006 Visits Bavarian homeland; while visiting Turkey, prays with Istanbul's grand mufti facing Mecca
2007 Approves services with traditional Catholic rituals – a concession to the traditionalists
2009 Lift excommunications of four ultra-traditionalists bishops, including one Holocaust denier
2010 On a trip to Spain, attacks abortion and gay marriage, both legal in Spain
2012 Names 22 new cardinals

© 2013 MCT
Source: Reuters, Catholic News Services

haustion, which is reflected in the way Christianity is lived," said Monsignor Antonio Marto, the bishop of Fatima in central Portugal. "You don't see that in Africa or Latin America, where there is a freshness, an enthusiasm about living the faith."

"Perhaps we need a pope who can look beyond Europe and bring to the entire church a certain vitality that is seen on other continents."

Cardinal Wilfrid Napier of

South Africa agreed.

"I think we would have a better chance of getting someone outside of the Northern hemisphere this time, because there are some really promising cardinals from other parts of the world," he said.

Despite that enthusiasm, more than half of those eligible to vote in the College of Cardinals hail from Europe, giving the continent an edge even though there's no rule that cardinals vote according to their geographic blocs.

It's also likely the next pope won't radically alter the church's course, though surprises are possible.

"Given the preponderance of cardinals appointed by popes John Paul and Benedict, it is unlikely that the next pope will make many radical changes," said the Rev. James Martin, a Jesuit author. "On the other hand, the papacy can change a man, and the Holy Spirit is always ready to surprise."

Syrian rebels capture country's largest dam

two smaller dams on the Euphrates River, which flows from Turkey through Syria and into Iraq. Behind al-Furat dam lies Lake Assad, which at 640 square kilometers (247 square miles) is the country's largest water reservoir.

The dam produces 880 megawatts of electricity, a small amount of the country's production. Syria's electricity production relies on plants powered by natural gas and fuel oil.

Still, the capture handed the rebels control over water and electricity supplies for both government-held areas and large swaths of land the opposition has captured over the past 22 months of fighting.

"This is the most important dam in Syria. It is a strategic dam, and Lake Assad is one of the largest artificial lakes in the region," said Rami Abdul-Rahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"It supplies many areas around Syria with electricity," Abdul-Rahman said, citing the provinces of Raqqa, Hassaka and Aleppo in the north as well as Deir el-Zour in the east near the Iraqi border.

The dam, constructed in the late 1960s in cooperation with

the Soviet Union, is located in a northeastern town once called Tabqa. After the dam was built, the town's name changed to Thawra, Arabic for revolution, to mark the March 8, 1963 coup that brought Assad's ruling Baath party to power.

Early Monday, when the rebels stormed the dam and the town, one of the first things they did was set ablaze a giant statue of the late President Hafez Assad, the current president's father.

"This is one of the biggest projects that have a moral value in Syria's history," said Dubai-based Syrian economist Samir Seifan. "It was the Syrian government's biggest project in the 20th century."

Seifan said that the dam is "a very sensitive plant" and it is very important that technicians and experts keep it running as usual because any mistake could have dangerous consequences.

He added that any mistake could "release massive amounts of water that will drown wide areas including the city of Deir el-Zour as well as cities in Iraq." Seifan added that "any damage will have dangerous consequences on civilians. It supplies hundreds of

thousands of hectares with water."

An amateur video released by activists showed rebels walking through large operations rooms as employees went on with their work as usual.

"The al-Furat dam is now in the hands of the Free Syrian Army heroes," says the narrator. "And these are the workers, continuing their work as usual."

The video appeared genuine and corresponded to other Associated Press reporting on the events depicted.

Abdul-Rahman, of the Observatory, said the rebels have told their fighters not to interfere with the work of the dam. He added that the gunmen will leave the dam for employees to run but will keep their checkpoints around the dam.

The rebels now control three dams on the Euphrates. In November, they captured the Tishrin Dam, near the northern town of Manbij. And last week, they took the Baath dam, close to al-Furat.

In Damascus, activists reported clashes and shelling mostly in the northeastern neighborhoods of Jobar and Qaboun as well as the southern parts of the city.

Latin America would like a Latin pope, odds slim

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Latin America is home to the world's largest Roman Catholic population, but hopes that the next pope will come from the region appear faint, experts said Monday.

The predominance of Europeans on the College of Cardinals means that the odds are stacked against a Latin American pope, even though the names of a number of high-ranking churchmen from the region have been bandied about, analysts said. The 118-member college, with 62 European members and only 19 from Latin America, will elect a successor for Pope Benedict XVI, who announced Monday he will resign due to age.

Still, hope springs eternal.

"Since Latin America is a fortress for Christianity during these rough times, it would be healthy for us to get a Latin American pope," said Fernando Reyes, 57, a professional violinist, who prays daily at the La Merced church in Santiago, Chile.

Crossing himself before leaving the church, Reyes noted, "I would be proud. We've had Italian, Polish, German. It's time for a Latin American."

Brazilian Cardinals Joao Braz de Aviz, a 65-year-old who has earned praise as head of the Vatican's office for religious congregations, and Odilo Pedro Scherer, the 63-year-old archbishop of Sao Paulo, have been mentioned as possibilities.

Other Latin Americans posited as possible popes include Argentina's Leonardo Sandri and Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the Archbishop of Buenos Aires. Sandri is head of the Vatican's office for Eastern rite churches. He earned fame as the "voice" of Pope John Paul II when the pontiff lost the ability to speak because of his Parkinson's disease.

Also mentioned in 2005, when Benedict was chosen, was Honduran Archbishop Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga.

But it is unclear whether any one of them could gain traction.

"To see the possibilities for a Latin American pope, you have to look at the makeup of the College of Cardinals," said Bernardo Barranco, an expert at Mexico's Center for Religious Studies. "From the get-go, I see it as difficult for a Latin American ... because the college has not only been 're-Europeanized,' it has also been 're-Italianized.'"

While some see Latin America's estimated 40 percent of the world's 1.2-billion Catholic population as a bulwark of the faith, the church is also facing challenges in the region from evangelical churches.

In Mexico, the percentage of the population who identify themselves as Catholics dropped from over 90 percent in the 1980s to 84 percent in 2010, the latest year for which data is available.

In Brazil, home to a number of charismatic or evangelical churches, the drop has been even more precipitous, from 84 percent in 1995 to 68 percent in 2010.

"In numerical terms, Latin America is majority Catholic, in broad terms, but these aren't the best times for the church," said Barranco. "On the contrary, it is going through a severe crisis the like of which it has never seen before."

Still, some see Latin America's still-large Catholic population as a decisive force.

"It would be a central argument for electing a Latin American pope, because the future of the church is in the Southern Hemisphere," said R. Andrew Chesnut, a professor of Religious Studies at the Virginia Commonwealth University. "I am not going to make any predictions, but I think there will be a contingent of European cardinals who would support an African or Latin American candidate."

For Rosita Mejia, 44, who has sold religious items for 25 years outside the La Merced church, the next pope's country of origin is less important than his vigor, energy and proximity to the people, none of which were distinguishing characteristics of Benedict XVI.

"In five years, only one person has asked me for a Benedict prayer card. In comparison hundreds of people have asked for John Paul II," Benedict's more charismatic predecessor, she said. "I would like for the next pope to be younger, and have more time to travel the world, and perhaps come to Chile like John Paul did."

Focus

Pope's bombshell sends troubled church scrambling

VATICAN CITY (AP)—With a few words in Latin, Pope Benedict XVI did what no pope has done in more than half a millennium, stunning the world by announcing his resignation Monday and leaving the already troubled Catholic Church to replace the leader of its 1 billion followers by Easter.

Not even his closest associates had advance word of the news, a bombshell that he dropped during a routine meeting of Vatican cardinals. And with no clear favorites to succeed him, another surprise likely awaits when the cardinals elect Benedict's successor next month.

"Without doubt this is a historic moment," said Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, a protege and former theology student of Benedict's who is considered a papal contender. "Right now, 1.2 billion Catholics the world over are holding their breath."

The Feb. 28 resignation allows for a fast-track conclave to elect a new pope, since the traditional nine days of mourning that would follow a pope's death doesn't have to be observed. It also gives the 85-year-old Benedict great sway over the choice of his successor. Though he will not himself vote, he has hand-picked the bulk of the College of Cardinals—the princes of the church who will elect his successor—to guarantee his conservative legacy and ensure an orthodox future for the church.

The resignation may mean that age will become less of a factor when electing a new pope, since candidates may no longer feel compelled to stay for life.

"For the century to come, I think that none of Benedict's successors will feel morally obliged to remain until their death," said Paris Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois.

Benedict said as recently as 2010 that a pontiff should resign if he got too old or infirm to do the job, but it was a tremendous surprise when he said in Latin that his "strength of mind and body" had diminished and that he couldn't carry on. He said he would resign effective 8 p.m. local time on Feb. 28.

"All the cardinals remained shocked and were looking at each other," said Monsignor Oscar Sanchez of Mexico, who was in the room at the time of the announcement.

As a top aide, Benedict watched from up close as Pope John Paul II suffered publicly from the Parkinson's disease that enfeebled him in the final years of his papacy. Clearly Benedict wanted to avoid the

same fate as his advancing age took its toll, though the Vatican insisted the announcement was not prompted by any specific malady.

The Vatican said Benedict would live in a congregation for cloistered nuns inside the Vatican, although he will be free to go in and out. Much of this is uncharted territory. The Vatican's chief spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said he isn't even sure of Benedict's title—perhaps "pope emeritus."

Since becoming pope in 2005, Benedict has charted a very conservative course for the church, trying to reawaken Christianity in Europe where it had fallen by the wayside and return the church to its traditional roots, which he felt had been betrayed by a botched interpretation of the modernizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

His efforts though, were overshadowed by a worldwide clerical sex abuse scandal, communication gaffes that outraged Jews and Muslims alike and, more recently, a scandal over leaked documents by his own butler. Many of his stated priorities as pope also fell short: He failed to establish relations with China, heal the schism and reunite with the Orthodox Church, or reconcile with a group of breakaway, traditionalist Catholics.

There are several papal contenders in the wings, but no obvious front-runner—the same situation as when Benedict was elected after the death of John Paul. As in recent elections, some push is expected for the election of a Third World pope, with several names emerging from Asia, Africa and Latin America, home to about 40 percent of the world's Catholics.

The Vatican stressed that no specific medical condition prompted Benedict's decision, saying he remains fully lucid and took his decision independently.

"Any interference or intervention is alien to his style," Lombardi said.

The pope has clearly slowed down significantly in recent years, cutting back his foreign travel and limiting his audiences. He now goes to and from the altar in St. Peter's Basilica on a moving platform to spare him the long walk down the aisle. Occasionally he uses a cane.

As early as 2010, Benedict began to look worn out: He had lost weight and didn't seem fully engaged when visiting bishops briefed him on their dioceses. But as tired as he often seemed, he would also bounce back, enduring searing heat in Benin to bless a child and gamely hanging on when

Pope Benedict XVI and his predecessors

Citing his advanced age and frail health, 85-year-old Pope Benedict XVI said he is resigning as head of the Roman Catholic Church. At 78, Benedict was one of the oldest new popes in history when elected in 2005.



Age when elected	Offices held in Catholic hierarchy	Other church service	Hometown
Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger) Elected 2005	78 Dean of College of Cardinals; archbishop of Munich	Head of Vatican office that enforces orthodoxy	Marktl am Inn, Germany
Pope John Paul II (Karol Wojtyla) 1978-2005	58 Archbishop of Krakow, Poland; bishop; parish priest	Pastor to refugees in France	Krakow, Poland
Pope John Paul I (Albino Luciani) 1978	65 Archbishop of Venice, Italy; bishop; parish priest	Seminary official	Forno de Canale, Italy
Pope Paul VI (Giovanni Montini) 1963-1978	65 Archbishop of Milan, Italy	Vatican diplomat, administrator	Sarezzo, Italy
Pope John XXIII (Angelo Roncalli) 1958-1963	76 Archbishop of Venice, Italy; parish priest	Vatican diplomat to Turkey, Greece, France	Sotto il Monte, Italy
Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) 1939-1958	73 Archbishop of Sardi*	Vatican diplomat and secretary of state	Rome
Pope Pius XI (Achille Ratti) 1922-1939	64 Archbishop of Milan, Italy	Vatican diplomat to Poland and librarian	Milan, Italy
Pope Benedict XV (Giacomo della Chiesa) 1914-1922 *Titular (honorary) position	54 Archbishop of Bologna, Italy	Vatican diplomat to Spain	Genoa, Italy

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Source: Vatican, Columbia Encyclopedia, Encyclopaedia Britannica, MCT Photo Service

a freak storm forced him to cut short a speech during a youth festival in Madrid in 2011.

His 89-year-old brother, Georg Ratzinger, said doctors recently advised the pope not to take any more trans-Atlantic trips.

"His age is weighing on him," Ratzinger told the dpa news agency in Germany. "At this age, my brother wants more rest."

"He has looked very, very run down," agreed U.S. Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, who was present for Monday's announcement, speaking to Sirius XM's "The Catholic Channel."

Benedict emphasized that to carry out the duties of being pope, "both strength of mind and body are necessary—strengths which in the last few months, have deteriorated in me."

"After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths due to an advanced age are no longer suited" to the demands of being the pope, he told the cardinals.

In a way, it shouldn't have come as a surprise. Benedict himself raised the possibility of resigning if he were too old or sick to continue.

"If a pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right, and under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign,"

Benedict said in the 2010 book "Light of the World."

But he stressed that resignation was not an option to escape a particular burden, such as the sex abuse scandal.

"When the danger is great, one must not run away. For that reason, now is certainly not the time to resign. Precisely at a time like this one must stand fast and endure the situation," he said.

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said Benedict decided to resign after his March 2012 trip to Mexico and Cuba, an exhausting but exhilarating visit where he met with fellow-octogenarian Fidel Castro and was treated to a rousing and warm welcome.

Although popes are allowed to resign, only a handful has done it—and none for a very long time.

The last pope to resign was Pope Gregory XII, who stepped down in 1415 in a deal to end the Great Western Schism, a dispute among competing papal claimants. The most famous resignation was Pope Celestine V in 1294; Dante placed him in hell for it.

There are good reasons why others haven't followed suit, primarily because of the fear of a schism with two living popes. Lombardi sought to rule out such a scenario, saying church law makes clear that a resigning pope no longer has the right to govern the church.

When Benedict was elected

in 2005 at age 78, he was the oldest pope chosen in nearly 300 years. At the time, he had already been planning to retire as the Vatican's chief orthodoxy watchdog to spend his final years writing in the "peace and quiet" of his native Bavaria.

On Monday, Benedict said he plans to serve the church for the remainder of his days "through a life dedicated to prayer." The Vatican said after he resigns he will travel to Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer retreat south of Rome, and then live in the monastery.

All cardinals under age 80 are allowed to vote in the conclave, the secret meeting held in the Sistine Chapel where cardinals cast ballots to elect a new pope. As per tradition, the ballots are burned after each voting round; black smoke that snakes out of the chimney means no pope has been chosen, while white smoke means a pope has been elected.

There are currently 118 cardinals under age 80 and thus eligible to vote, 67 of them appointed by Benedict. However, four will turn 80 before the end of March. Depending on the date of the conclave, they may or may not be allowed to vote.

Benedict in 2007 passed a decree requiring a two-thirds majority to elect a pope, changing the rules established by John Paul in which the voting could shift to a simple majority after about 12 days of inconclusive balloting. Benedict did so to prevent cardinals from merely

holding out until the 12 days had passed to push through a candidate who had only a slim majority.

Contenders to be Benedict's successor include Cardinal Angelo Scola, archbishop of Milan; Schoenborn, the archbishop of Vienna, and Cardinal Marc Ouellet, the Canadian head of the Vatican's office for bishops.

Longshots include Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York. Although Dolan is popular and backs the pope's conservative line, being from a world superpower would probably hurt his chances. That might also rule out Cardinal Raymond Burke, an archconservative and the Vatican's top judge, even though he is known and respected by most Vatican cardinals.

Cardinal Antonio Tagle, the archbishop of Manila, has impressed many Vatican watchers, but at 56 he is considered too young.

Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson of Ghana is one of the highest-ranking African cardinals at the Vatican, currently heading the Vatican's office for justice and peace, but he's something of a wild card.

There are several "papabiles" in Latin America, though the most well-known—Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras—is considered far too liberal to be elected by such a conservative College of Cardinals.

Whoever it is, he will face a church in turmoil: The sex abuse scandal has driven thousands of people away from the church, particularly in Europe. Rival churches, particularly evangelical Pentecostal groups in the developing world, pose new competition. And as the pope himself has long lamented, many people in an increasingly secular world simply believe they don't need God.

The timing of Benedict's announcement was significant: Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, the most solemn period on the church's calendar that culminates with Holy Week and Easter on March 31. It is also the period in which the world witnessed the final days of John Paul's papacy in 2005.

The timing means that there will be a spotlight cast on Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, the Italian head of the Vatican's culture office who has long been on the list of "papabile." Benedict selected him to preside over the Vatican's spiritual exercises during Lent.

And by Easter Sunday, the Catholic Church will almost certainly have a new leader, Lombardi said—a potent symbol of rebirth in the church on a day that celebrates the resurrection of Christ.

Campus Life

Green Meadow students win major honors at Math Court

Competing students from Green Meadow School were once again victorious at the Math Court competition held on Feb. 2, 2013, at Koblerville Elementary School. Kindergarten pupil Chealzka Navarro won first place in her category. First graders Kriselle Drilon and Andrielle Coloma, both first placers, led their other classmates in bringing home five major awards. Another first placer, second grader Jill Anne Mallari, dedicated her win to her parents and classmates. Competing students from third and fourth grade level were also successful in winning major honors for themselves and for their school.

GMS management, teachers and staff congratulates all the participants and winners and thank all the parents for their support and assistance."

KINDER:

1st Place, Chealzka Navarro
2nd Place, Jhaylin Cruz



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla joins coach Liza Quiambao and teachers of winning students at the Math Court competition held at Koblerville Elementary School on Feb. 2, 2013.

2nd Place, Rowin Bas
2nd Place, Jian Carlo Sales
3rd Place, Jasmyn Tolentino

FIRST GRADE:

1st Place, Kriselle Drilon
1st Place, Andrielle Coloma
2nd Place, Areeza Anda
3rd Place, Jeremiah Alfred
3rd Place, Nicole Sacramento
3rd Place, Patrick Gregorio
4th Place, Elijah Umali

SECOND GRADE:

1st Place, Jill Anne Mallari

THIRD GRADE:

3rd Place, Aljanah Manabat
3rd Place, Joshua Alfred

FOURTH GRADE:

2nd Place, Xavier Gatmaitan

COACHES: Sony Natividad (kindergarten), Ana Liza Quiambao (1st to 4th Grade)

VOLUNTEER PROCTORS: Erwina Bas, Celan Navarro, Arthur Anda, Lizette Pascua

Students of Golden Harvest International School displayed strong performances in the recent National Forensic League, Primary Grade Forensic Conference, and Math Court. Golden Harvest International School makes it a point to have its students participate in these competitions as these serve as a venue for empowerment that help them develop their strengths, enhance self-esteem, and create their personal sense of fulfillment. We thank parents/guardians, teachers, coaches and judges for your active involvement. Congratulations to our students for their hard work and continued success!

The Primary Grade Forensic Conference on Jan. 19, 2013, at Koblerville Elementary School, produced the following winners:

K-2 DIVISION

1st place, CHORAL SPEAKING
Mia Ysabela Abuan
Kaithlyn Chavez
Tamia Hix
Nicole Erin Mariano
Breana Patawaran
3rd place, CHORAL-SPEAK-

Golden Harvest students excel in NJFL, PGFC, Math Court



Coaches: Flordeliza Flores, Leonor Marfil, Imelda Bautista, Aida Lim, Marilyn Divino
PGFC & NJFL Coordinator: Flordeliza Flores/Ms. Imelda Bautista
Math Court Coordinator: Aida Lim/ Nestor Tam

Golden Harvest's National Junior Forensic League students competed mostly against middle school students (7th & 8th grade) in the CNMI. The competition was held at Garapan Elementary School on Jan. 26, 2013.

First Place Winner: Mark Daniel Ibanez, POETRY
Second Place Winner: Ryan Louis Divino and Mathew Leon Guerrero, DUO
Second Place Winner: Ryan Louis Divino, CH PR
Second Place Winner: Mathew Leon Guerrero, CH PO
Third Place Winner: Mark Daniel Ibanez, ORIGINAL ORATORY

Third Place Winner: Ryan Louis Divino, HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Fourth Place Winner: Mathew Leon Guerrero, DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

Fifth Place Winner: Mark Daniel Ibanez, DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

Judge: Flordeliza Flores

Coaches: Nestor Tam, Marilyn Divino

Golden Harvest International School students made it to the final competition in the Math Court held on Feb. 2, 2013, at Koblerville Elementary School.

Second Place Winner: Sukey Wu (3rd grade)

Third Place Winner: Kaithlyn Chavez (K-5)

Third Place winner: Mark Chavez (1st grade)

Third Place Winner: John Paul Labadan (2nd grade)

Third Place Winner: John Isaac San Nicolas (4th grade)

Proctors: Flordeliza Flores, Nestor Tam

Trainers: Leonor Marfil, Aida Vilaria, Nestor Tam



5th place, HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Christine Caluya

3-5 DIVISION:

2nd place, CHORAL SPEAKING

Marionne Corpuz

Davean Gonzales

Vince Salvador

John Isaac San Nicolas

3rd place, CHORAL SPEAKING

Sebastian Bernardo

Michelle Leon Guerrero

Raesyl Solis

Sukey Wu

4th place, DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

Davean Gonzales

5th place, HUMOROUS INTERPRETATION

Raesyl Solis

Judges: Leny Duarte, Katherine Florita, Belinda Acosta, Nestor Tam



Life & Style

Sports Illustrated Swimsuit cover: Kate Upton, 20

NEW YORK (AP)—In the dead of winter, many girl-watchers' thoughts turn to warmer days ahead.

As an answer to such yearnings, the annual Sports Illustrated Swimsuit issue is on the way, with Kate Upton once again its cover girl.

Repeating her world-class pin-up feat for a second consecutive year, the 20-year-old, 5-feet-10-inch (1.77-meters) Upton graces the cover of the 2013 edition, which is set to be officially unveiled Monday night on TV on CBS' "Late Show with David Letterman" (with 10 of the models present-

ing the Top Ten List).

The new edition—marking the 50th anniversary—will be on newsstands Tuesday.

It's Upton's third appearance in a Swimsuit issue. She was chosen as rookie of the year in 2011, when Irina Shayk was on the cover.

This year for the first time, the fashion shoot covers the entire world, with 17 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit models journeying to all seven continents. Photo sites include African dunes and Asian cliffs.

But for Upton, there's lots of ice. She is warming things up in Antarctica, where the cover shot displays her clad only in a white, fur-lined parka and bikini bottom.

Out of a dozen or so photos in which she appears, the cover shot "is the most clothes I'm wearing in the whole issue," Upton said in a phone interview Monday. "It was a sort of I-love-you from the editor: 'I'll let you wear a coat for this one.'"

The shoot spanned 10 days in December, which is Antarctica's "summer." Some of the photos, including the cover, were shot from the base ship, which also carried the team from one icy land shooting site to another.

When she returned to her home in Florida, Upton said she was "very, very sick. I don't think you can go to Antarctica and stand in a bikini without that happening. But I didn't die, and I'm OK now."

Very OK, after hearing only on Friday that she was the editors' choice for the cover.

Despite the challenges of the assignment, Upton said it would likely remain her most thrilling ever, and called Antarctica "the most beautiful place I've ever been."

But for anyone else who wants to experience that magical place, she offered this bit of advice: "You are definitely recommended to keep your clothes on."

Russell and Rhys play Russian spies in the 'burbs

NEW YORK (AP)—It all started with a slap for Matthew Rhys. Trying out for "The Americans," he took one in the puss from Keri Russell.

This new FX drama, whose third episode airs Wednesday at 10 p.m. EST, focuses on two KGB spies posing as an ordinary American couple shortly after Ronald Reagan became president.

As Philip and Elizabeth Jennings, they have a comfortable home in a Washington suburb, two sweet kids, a travel agency they run and, by all signs, a solid piece of the American Dream. No one would suspect that they are Russian-born plants bent on burying the United States with subterfuge and brutality.

No one, that is, unless it's their new neighbor, FBI agent Stan Beeman (played by Noah Emmerich with an infectious mix of cunning and dorkiness), who has recently moved in with his family across the street. He represents just one among the many threats of exposure, imprisonment or death they face daily.

"It's an incredible balancing act to portray: the domesticity of their suburban lives and the struggle of their relationship as an arranged couple, and then the extreme spy stuff," says Rhys.

"The balancing act is very difficult," echoes Russell in a separate interview. "We're spies, but how much do you play that reality? And how do you play the masquerade that you're NOT a spy? There are so many layers to it."

"The Americans" is a good old-fashioned thriller, set in a pre-cellphone, -Internet and -PC world where gumption counts as much as gadgetry in the espionage game, and where the world is a very anxious place yet handily divided between Good and the Evil Empire (as Reagan dubbed the Soviet Union).

Meanwhile, the series calls on viewers to root for Philip and Elizabeth as they risk everything



AP
This Jan. 26, 2013 photo shows Keri Russell left, and Matthew Rhys at the premiere of the FX television series "The Americans" in New York.

to advance this "Evil Empire."

But however driven in their partnership, they are butting heads. Elizabeth despises American values. She is fiercely devoted to the cause of Mother Russia. But Philip is torn: He doesn't think the U.S. is such a bad place.

"That kind of disagreement is something I understand as someone who is not a spy, but as just someone in a marriage," says Russell with a knowing smile.

For most viewers, Russell, now 36, needs no introduction. In 1998 she burst on the scene, complete with those flowing pre-Raphaelite curls, in the title role of "Felicity," then followed up with the miniseries "Into the West," films including "Extraordinary Measures," "Waitress" and her upcoming horror flick, "Dark Skies," and, alongside Will Arnett, the short-lived sitcom "Running Wilde."

When those words are shared with Rhys, he bursts out laughing.

"She's INCREDIBLE! She's the total package!" he declares. "Her work ethic is huge, she takes the right things seriously and most of the other stuff,

2011 birth of her second child, Willa Lou, with carpenter-husband Shane Deary. Understandably, she wasn't eager to rush back to work.

"But this show was so strange and complicated I couldn't really figure it out, and I thought, 'That could stay interesting and fun to do,'" she says. Besides, it conveniently substitutes circa-1980s Washington with New York locations. "It shoots near my house in Brooklyn. I can ride my bike to work."

Still sylphic and long-haired, Russell makes an ideal Elizabeth Jennings, who, by turns, is a lovely wife and mother, a fearless operative and a rock-'em-sock-'em brawler.

And to hear her talk, Russell seems thrilled with her leading man.

The 38-year-old Welsh-born Rhys is best known from ABC's drama "Brothers & Sisters," where he played lawyer and gay man Kevin Walker. His credits also include the indie film "The Scapegoat" and the BBC miniseries "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."

"He's a real actor! I'm in awe of him!" says Russell. "We'll be doing a scene and I'll go, 'Matthew's doing all of THAT, and I'm just doing THIS! Arggggg!' Between Matthew and Noah Emmerich and me, I'm the most boring TV person in the show."

When those words are shared with Rhys, he bursts out laughing.

"She's INCREDIBLE! She's the total package!" he declares. "Her work ethic is huge, she takes the right things seriously and most of the other stuff,



AP
Kate Upton poses with NFL football player Victor Cruz from the New York Giants on the red carpet for the GQ, Lacoste and Mercedes-Benz Celebration of the Big Game in the Big Easy, on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013 in New Orleans.

*With Sincere
Appreciation*



We, the family of the late

†Winefreda Maratita Sablan

Wish to extend our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all our families, relatives, friends and acquaintances from Guam, Rota, Tinian and Saipan, for your thoughtful expression of Love, Sympathy, Prayers, personal assistance and support during the difficult time of sorrow in the painful passing of our beloved wife/mother/grandmother into the eternal hands of God.

We further extend UN DANGKULU NA SI YU'US MA'ASE to father Rey Rosal, the alter servers, Frank C. Cabrera & Margaret C. Dela Cruz and the Kantaye Kristo Rai Choir, our techa; Rose M. Magofna, Mr. & Mrs. James P. Reyes, Joeten Enterprises, Natibu Catering, Get Covered (Tino & Lilian), CHC Doctors, Nurses & Staff, St. Jude Renal Care Doctors, Nurses & Staff, Dept. of Public Safety (Saipan), the Quichocho-Maratita-Masga-Sablan families, and the Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Mortuary staff.

To all who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence at the nightly mass, and especially for your presence at the Mass of Christian Burial and at the entombment site, we thank you from our hearts.

May God bless you all

**Luis M. Sablan, Children & Family
Quichocho-Maratita Families
Masga-Sablan Families**

3 die in copter crash on reality TV set

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three people were killed in a helicopter crash in a rural area of northern Los Angeles County while filming for a new reality TV show for the Discovery Channel.

The copter crashed at about 3:40 a.m. local time Sunday at the popular filming location of Polka Rosa Ranch in the city of Acton, Los Angeles County Fire dispatcher Robert Diaz said.

All three people aboard died, Diaz said.

Coroner's spokesman Ed Winter identified the victims Monday as David Gene Gibbs, 59; Darren Arthur Rydstrom, 46, and Michael

William Donatelli, 45.

The show, listed on a filming permit as an untitled military-theme TV program, had not yet been aired or announced by Discovery, channel spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg said.

"A production company was shooting a show for Discovery Channel when this tragic accident occurred," the station said in a statement. "We are all cooperating fully with authorities. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families."

The show's production company, Eyeworks USA, best known for creating NBC's "The Biggest

Loser," also issued a statement expressing sympathies to the victims' families and saying they were cooperating with authorities.

The company had been approved to use a helicopter for a reality TV show shooting at the ranch from Saturday afternoon until Sunday morning, said Philip Sokoloski, a spokesman for Film-LA, which processes filming permits for location shootings in the Los Angeles region.

Records also showed that Crossbow Helicopters received approval to participate in filming from the Federal Aviation Administration.

"We wouldn't have referenced

helicopter activity if we didn't already have pre-approval from the FAA," Sokoloski said.

The cause and other circumstances surrounding the crash were still unknown, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said.

Television footage showed mangled wreckage in a rugged canyon.

According to its website, Polka Rosa is a "movie ranch" where film crews can utilize a variety of terrains as well as two airstrips. The ranch, according to the Internet Movie Database, was used in "Windtalkers" and last year's remake of "Red Dawn."

Justin Timberlake performs post-Grammy show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mr. "SexyBack" performed back-to-back Sunday night.

After Justin Timberlake's performance at the Grammy Awards, the pop star electrified during a 90-minute set at the Hollywood Palladium.

Timberlake sang familiar hits—from "Senorita" to "Rock Your Body" to "My Love"—as well as new R&B numbers from his anticipated new album. He was easygoing onstage—as if he'd never left.

Like at the Grammys, Jay-Z joined in for "Suit & Tie." Beyoncé was looked on, along with Kelly Rowland, Neil Patrick Harris, Timbaland, Lance Bass and others.

Timberlake apologized to the eager crowd for taking so long to release new music. His last album was out in 2006.

He said, smiling: "It's going to be a fun year."

Timberlake's new album, "The 20/20 Experience," is out March 19.



'Bachelor' host teases 'combustible situation'

NEW YORK (AP)—After 17 seasons on "The Bachelor" (plus eight seasons on "The Bachelorette" and three on "Bachelor Pad"), host Chris Harrison says one thing makes Sean Lowe stand out from the others—and it's not his washboard abs.

It's the way Lowe makes the women on the television dating show feel, Harrison says. On the show, which airs on America's ABC channel, single women live in a house together and compete for the affection of a single man.

Lowe "has this incredible way of making you feel like you're the only person in the room," Harrison said in a recent interview. "That's a great quality, and the thing is, it's sincere."

"It's not an act with him, and what really makes the difference is his sincerity. His charm and his charisma makes these women feel like, 'This is it, like we could literally stop this date and go get married.' I don't think I've ever seen a season where so many relationships are so sincere and serious and that could only lead to one thing: a very combustible situation."

Lowe, who is from Dallas, tried to win Emily Maynard's heart last season on "The Bachelorette."

He ended up in third place, and although he didn't walk away with the girl, he did leave with a friendship with finalists Arie Luyendyk Jr. and Jef Holm. Luyendyk appeared on the first episode of "The Bachelor" to give Lowe support.

Harrison says that while male contestants tend to bond, women tend to bicker and conspire against one another.

"The way they are manipulative and they fight, and they try to win—that's them," he said. "And when you shine a light on it maybe it's not so pretty, but that happens in every bar and church and library in America when people are getting together and it's just exploited to the nth degree on 'The Bachelor.'"

But, he adds: "It's an extraordinary situation, too. I mean, I'm gonna come to their defense a little bit. They're all dating the same guy. But ... the guys seem to have this ... camaraderie, and we're pretty simple animals."

Bruce Willis gets French honor



American movie star Bruce Willis, poses for the press with his wife model Emma Heming, left, after being awarded with the medal of Commander of Arts and Letters by French culture minister Aurelie Filippetti, right, in Paris, Monday Feb. 11, 2013.

PARIS (AP) — Actor Bruce Willis has been awarded the Commander of the Arts in France for his contribution to cinema.

The 57-year-old, whose latest film is "A Good Day to Die Hard," told the Paris ceremony Monday night that he feels honored that his work has been recognized. His attended the event with his wife, Emma Heming.

Willis was born in Europe and said he feels at home in France. But the star said he opposes President François Hollande's plan to tax the richest at 75 percent and hopes he would be able to complain about it if he lived in France.

Willis also said in an interview that he thinks there'll be more "Die Hard" movies to come. The one out now is the fifth.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Grammy audience down, still 2nd highest since 1993

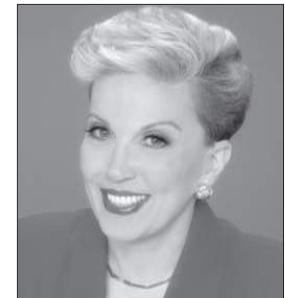
NEW YORK (AP)—It's back down to earth for the Grammy Awards in the television ratings. The Nielsen company said Monday that music's annual awards show was seen by 28.1 million people on CBS on Sunday night. That's the second-largest audience for the program since 1993. It was way down from last year, when just under 40 million people tuned in during extraordinary circumstances. The 2012 show came just after the death of Whitney Houston and also proved to be the coronation for Adele, who won six Grammys. Back in 2006 and 2008 there was far less interest. The Grammys got around 17 million viewers each year.

Manager killed, singer badly injured in accident

LONDON (AP)—The popular British sea shanty singing group Fisherman's Friends has been devastated by the death of its tour manager and grave injuries to a singer. Singer Trevor Grills was said by band mate Jon Cleave Monday to be "fighting for his life" after a pre-concert accident that killed tour manager Paul McMullen on Saturday. Police say both men were trapped underneath a door at the loading bay of a concert venue in Guildford, 35 miles (55 kilometers) southwest of London. St. George's Hospital said Monday that Grills is in critical condition. He reportedly suffered severe head injuries.

Sister in open marriage takes sharing too far

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My daughters are attractive young women, both doing well in their professional careers. "Melanie," who is 27, is married to "Sam," an extremely attractive and successful man.

My 30-year-old daughter, "Alicia," has been divorced for a year. Her marriage failed two years ago because she and her husband had an appetite for sex outside their marriage. While I was disturbed about that, I was horrified to learn that Melanie allows her sister to occasionally have sex with Sam.

Melanie's argument is that Sam is less likely to cheat given this situation. When I asked her and Sam about it, he said it wasn't his idea. My current husband says any man who would refuse this "set-up" would be nuts. Alicia claims she "doesn't have time" to date right now, and after she finishes her MBA, she'll seek out a more normal relationship.

I am distraught about this mess. Melanie says she wants to start a family soon. She says she loves Sam, who can "handle everything," and she enjoys seeing "everyone happy." She says Alicia won't sleep around now and, maybe, one day she'll marry a handsome man like Sam who will "return the favor"!

I can't believe these girls are my daughters. Should I continue to protest or let it go? Is this relaxed attitude about sex prevalent in young people today? I cannot understand Melanie's lack of desire to defend her turf.

HEARTBROKEN MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR MOM: Your daughters appear to be into the concept of open marriage. Clearly, they do not view marriage and relationships the same way you do.

Melanie is naive to think that encouraging Sam to have a sexual relationship with her sister will discourage him from seeking other partners. Far from it. And as for her wanting to start a family, has she considered what will happen if her husband impregnates Alicia at the same time—or first?

But back to your question: Are you right to protest? You certainly are. That's what mothers are for—to inject a dose of sanity when everyone around her is losing theirs.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The other day at work, my girlfriend overheard a group of people in the break room talking about what they'd do first if they won the lottery. Without exception, everyone in that room said the first thing they would do is get a divorce. My girlfriend was stunned.

Have you ever done an informal reader survey on this subject? Is the state of marriage in America really that bad? I'm also curious if answers would differ along gender lines. Let me know what you think, and thanks.

HAPPILY SINGLE BUT STILL A BELIEVER IN MARRIAGE

DEAR HAPPILY SINGLE: No, I have not done a reader survey on this subject. But I'm glad you asked, because I think what your girlfriend heard is a sad commentary on the state of the marriages of her co-workers. Readers, if you'd care to chime in on this, I'm sure it would be enlightening.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Cook (1): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character. Must be able to follow grooming standards. Must be able to obtain health certificate. Must be able to provide current police clearance. With reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of position listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 years experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant, MISA Bldg., 1 Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan. Please no phone calls.

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JVA No. 13-003

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

Associate Engineer

RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITY OFFERED:

Position reports directly to CUC's Chief Engineer or his/her designee in the Engineering Section of the Water and Wastewater Divisions. This is a position required by the Stipulated Order ("SO") of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051. Position is also known as the Drinking Water and Wastewater Associate Engineer ("AE"). Examples of duties:

- Coordinate and meet with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervise engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Review work performed by engineering technicians.
- Perform project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and letters, recommendations; develop scopes of work; provide technical reviews; surveying for projects; schedule project elements; evaluate proposals; monitor project progress and project funds; and, recommend selection of projects.
- Prepare engineering calculations, plans and specifications; design water and wastewater facilities and other utility related facilities; collect data and perform research.
- Troubleshoot systems and equipment.
- Manage construction and perform contract management activities including evaluating bids, correspondence with contractors and contracting officer, reviewing submittals, interpreting drawings and technical specifications, responding to contractor inquiries, evaluating work for compliance with contract provisions, processing payment requests, inspecting construction and other related tasks.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Successful candidates for CUC's Associate Engineer must have the following:
• Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or Environmental Engineering, (or Mechanical Engineering if 5 years work experience in design and management of water and sewer facilities can be proven). Experience of eight (8) or more years of work as an engineer, and a minimum of five (5) years work experience in water and sewer related projects. Must demonstrate competency in overseeing drinking water systems and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, construction, and in maintenance of water and wastewater system components.

- Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction methods and techniques; Engineering principles and practices.

• Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and pertinent software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

• A CNMI driver's license or one from another U.S. jurisdiction is required.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATION:

- Professional Engineer's license in Civil, Environmental (or Mechanical) fields from the CNMI, Guam, the District of Columbia, or any state of the U.S.

SALARY INFORMATION:

Current salary and years of specialized experience will determine the appropriate salary level within the range of \$60,000.00 to \$100,000.00 per annum. This position is employed under a two-year contract and is both ungraded and unclassified.

POSITION:

One position on a two-year contract; subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter, a list of references, and a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*: Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

3. Drop Off:
Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
(04) Hemodialysis Technician
• Certificate from a Junior college/Technical School in health care.
• Attended a hemodialysis-training program.
• Three year hemodialysis experienced-Preferred.
• Must be CCHT certified by the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission.
• English Language skills-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
• Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
• In-Service train with Baxter Phoenix Machine.
• Experience with Ameriwater Bicarbonate distribution system.
• Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up applications at St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670)234-2903 ext. 124.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
(01) NURSE SUPERVISOR
• Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License.
• Attended a hemodialysis training program and management of hemodialysis inpatient and outpatient care.
• Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
• At least four years hemodialysis experience and plus three year as a charge nurse in dialysis.
• English Language skill-Proficient in spoken, written and comprehension.
• Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.
• Certified Nephrology Nurse-(CNN) Preferred.
• In-service train with Baxter Phoenix machine.
• Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.
• Flexible with time schedule.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan or for more information, please call Judy Arriola at 234-2903 ext. 124.



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION VACANCY: Loan Officer IV
ANNUAL SALARY: \$24,889.35 – 30,246.74

This position is a senior level position responsible for developing new business, underwriting, restructuring, closing of loans, maintaining and servicing existing loan portfolios. The position requires the individual to participate in marketing CDA's loan programs and services and explore other funding resources and opportunities to leverage CDA's funds. The individual must possess a high degree of knowledge and comprehension in economics, finance, and business and is required to maintain a reasonable relationship with clients and provide technical assistance within his or her capacity.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Any combination equivalent to graduation from college with a Bachelor's degree in finance, economics, or related business field, plus five (5) years of experience in professional level commercial real estate lending, financial and credit analysis work or related field.

A detail duties and responsibilities and employment application may be obtained at the CDA Office, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) or CDA's website at www.cda.gov.mp. Applications **must be submitted to the OPM** by Friday, March 1, 2013 closing date.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at 234-6245 ext.310.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director



JVA No. 13-016

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Opening Date: Friday, February 1, 2013
Closing Date: Until Filled

DIRECT RESPONSIBLE CHARGE OPERATOR
WASTEWATER TREATMENT LEVEL 2 CERTIFIED

DUTIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western Pacific. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Provides direction to Trades Assistants to include assigning and monitoring tasks and providing direction. Performs journey level operations, installations and/or repairs in service area assigned. Inspects equipment and determines if any repairs are needed. Performs preventative maintenance in service area assigned. Maintains level of supplies and equipment. Positions assigned to Wastewater are also responsible for: Cleaning, maintaining, repairing and painting submersible pumps; Lifting, inspecting and replacing submersible pumps; Rewinding motors for emergency purposes; Fabricating, welding, and bypassing pumps and pipes to ensure operation; Troubleshooting treatment plant problems; Performing maintenance and repairs on generators; Operating Vactor trucks; Monitoring and performing preventive maintenance on sewer lines, manholes and lift stations; Taking treatment plant readings and performing adjustments; Troubleshooting and maintaining control panels; Running sludge by oiling and cleaning the filter press. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. This is a Direct Responsible Charge (DRC Operator) position required by Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$32,500.00 to \$42,500 per year; Plus overtime; Un-classified. Current salary and specific experience will be used to determine pay rate at entry.

RELOCATION: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$10,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

POSITIONS: One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year; subject to renewal

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Licensing Requirement: Wastewater Treatment Level Two Certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)). Also required is a CNMI Driver's License or one from another U.S. jurisdiction. Education: High School Diploma, or General Education Diploma or Adult School Diploma through a U.S. state or territory Adult Basic Education program, "and" four (4) years of increasingly responsible experience related to the area assigned. Knowledge of: Principles and procedures of service area assigned; Inspection and troubleshooting principles; Preventative maintenance principles; Inventory control principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Preparing cost and materials estimates; Performing preventative maintenance; Performing journey level maintenance and installations in service area; Performing site inspections and recognizing problem areas; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

2. Fax: 670-235-5131

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POLICIES:

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It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

Mullens, Bobcats end Celtics' win streak, 94-91



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—All in all, Monday proved to be a painful night for the Boston Celtics.

Not only did the Celtics have their seven-game losing streak snapped at the hands of the NBA's worst team, but they might have suffered yet another costly injury in their 94-91 loss to the Charlotte Bobcats.

Backup guard Leandro Barbosa, who has seen increased playing time since the season-ending injury to Rajon Rondo, injured his left knee late in the third quarter and had to be carried to the locker room by a trainer and teammate.

Coach Doc Rivers said Barbosa will have an MRI on Tuesday.

"It doesn't look great but we'll see," Rivers said.

In the seven games since Rondo's injury Barbosa had averaged nine points while playing an average of 22.5 minutes. The Celtics had won all seven games.

All of that came crashing down Monday night.

This night belonged to Charlotte's unheralded big man, Byron Mullens.

The four-year NBA veteran turned in a career game with 25 points and 18 rebounds as the Bobcats snapped a seven-game losing streak.

The 7-foot Mullens hit 10 of 16 shots from the field, including 4 of 5 from 3-point range. Ramon Sessions had 19 points for the Bobcats, including the go-ahead jumper from 18 feet with 25.7 seconds left. Kemba Walker had 18 points, six assists and six rebounds, and Gerald Henderson chipped in with 16 points.

Timberwolves 100, Cavaliers 92

In Cleveland, Luke Ridnour scored 21 points, Ricky Rubio added 13 and 10 assists and Minnesota snapped an eight-game road losing streak.

Ridnour dropped a critical 3-pointer with 1:43 left for the banged-up Timberwolves, who hadn't won on the road since Jan. 3—star forward Kevin Love's last game before he was lost indefinitely with a broken hand.

Nikola Pekovic added 16 points and 10 rebounds as Minnesota ended a four-game losing streak and improved to just 4-16 since losing Love.

Kyrie Irving scored 20 points and Tristan Thompson had 16 for the Cavs, who were within 82-81 in the fourth before Ridnour sparked a 10-2 run by the Timberwolves. Ridnour had 13 points in the final 12 minutes.

Clippers 107, 76ers 90

In Philadelphia, Chris Paul had 21 points and 11 assists, Blake Griffin scored 20 points and the Clippers cruised past Philadelphia.

Jamal Crawford also scored 20 points and Matt Barnes had



Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett (5) fouls Charlotte Bobcats' Byron Mullens (22) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Feb. 11, 2013. AP

11 for the Pacific Division-leading Clippers. Eric Bledsoe scored 10 points while DeAndre Jordan grabbed 10 rebounds.

Los Angeles closed out its season-high eight-game road trip at 4-4, including consecutive wins at New York and Philadelphia. The Clippers won the finale with ease without guard Chauncey Billups and forward Caron Butler. Both players were nursing sore lower backs and were replaced in the starting lineup by Matt Barnes and Willie Green.

Nick Young led the Sixers with 29 points while Jrue Holiday, Evan Turner and Jeremy Pargo had 10 each. Spencer Hawes had 10 rebounds.

Nets 89, Pacers 84, OT

In Indianapolis, Brook Lopez scored 25 points and Brooklyn opened overtime on a 9-3 run to pull away from Indiana.

The Nets ended a five-game losing streak at Bankers Life Fieldhouse and won for just the second time in games overall despite playing without injured guard Deron Williams.

Indiana lost its second straight home game in overtime, the losses coming on the heels of a 15-game home winning streak. George Hill scored 22 points and Roy Hibbert added 12 on a night the Pacers shot just 34.4 percent from the field and All-Star Paul George finished with five points.

The Pacers appeared to swing the game with a 7-0 run that gave them a 76-72 lead with 1:38 left in regulation.

But Brooklyn scored the final four points to force overtime and started fast in the extra period to put away the game.

Hornets 105, Pistons 86

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Ryan Anderson scored 31 points, Robin Lopez had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and New Orleans won for the third time in eight games.

New Orleans had lost of five of seven coming in, but was in control for the final 40 minutes even though Eric Gordon sat out to rest his knee. Wearing

their purple, green and gold Mardi Gras jerseys, New Orleans finished with 10 blocks to just three for the Pistons. Al-Farouq Aminu added 12 points and 14 rebounds.

Playing without star rookie Andre Drummond (back), the Pistons had no answer for New Orleans in the paint. Reserve Rodney Stuckey led Detroit with 19 points, but most came after the game had been decided. Greg Monroe added 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Wizards 102, Bucks 90

In Milwaukee, rookie Brandon Beal scored a season-high 28 points to help Washington to a rare road win.

The Wizards have won four consecutive games and 11 of 18. They are 10-7 since John Wall returned from injury and won for only the fourth time in 25 road games this year.

Monta Ellis had 24 points, seven rebounds and eight assists for Milwaukee, and Ersan Ilyasova added 19 points and nine rebounds. Leading-scorer Brandon Jennings was held to seven points, missing 14 of 17 shots.

The Bucks have dropped four consecutive games and six of seven, but hold the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. They didn't lose any ground to the team closest to them as Philadelphia lost 107-90 to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Spurs 103, Bulls 89

In Chicago, Kawhi Leonard had a career-high 26 points and Danny Green scored 18 on Monday night, helping the short-handed San Antonio Spurs beat the Chicago Bulls 103-89 without their three biggest stars.

Tony Parker, Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili were all out with injuries, and swingman Stephen Jackson also missed the game due to "personal business," according to the team. And the NBA-best Spurs still had enough talent to beat one of the Eastern Conference's best teams in its building.

Gary Neal and Tiago Splitter had 16 points apiece for

San Antonio, which improved the league's best road record to 19-10. Nando De Colo, subbing

for Parker, had nine points and seven assists in his second career start.

While James sizzles Wade generates Heat

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade got the ball on the left wing, darted toward the basket, leaped to avoid Dwight Howard and dunked from the right side of the rim.

A year ago, a play like that one from Sunday might have been impossible for Wade.

Now, he's looking good as new, at maybe the perfect time for the surging Miami Heat.

LeBron James might be the best player in the world and might be playing like the best player in the world, but he's hardly having to carry the entire load for the Heat these days. While James is on a history-making run of scoring at least 30 points and shooting at least 60 percent in Miami's last five games—all wins—Wade is averaging 24.8 points on better than 50 percent shooting over that same stretch.

And what's weird is, it almost seems as if Wade is doing it quietly.

"I know what a problem he is," said the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, who watched Wade score 30 in a Heat win on Sunday. "You try to focus in on him as much as you can. They have two very, very special players. Two of the best that we've seen. Dwyane obviously is dealing with injuries starting the year, but he seems to be rounding into form and you saw that breakaway dunk he had—that's the younger D-Wade."

During this Miami winning streak, James and Wade are combining to average 55.8 points a game. Over the same time span, no other NBA 1-2 punch was close.

Tony Parker and Danny Green combined to average 49.3 points for San Antonio. Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire averaged 48.8 points for the New York Knicks. James Harden and Jer-

Nate Robinson scored 20 points and Richard Hamilton had 16 for the Bulls.

Hawks 105, Mavericks 101

In Dallas, Josh Smith had 26 points and 13 rebounds, Devin Harris made a key steal in the final minute for Atlanta,

Al Horford had 21 points and 10 rebounds and Jeff Teague scored 20 points to help the Hawks win for just the second time in their last 10 road games.

With the Hawks up 99-98, Harris poked the ball from a driving O.J. Mayo and saved the ball from going out of bounds with 23.9 seconds left. Atlanta preserved the victory by hitting its final six free throws.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and Mayo added 19 for the Mavericks, who have lost two of the first three on a five-game homestand.

While his scoring has dipped each year, so have his shots per game—something that he knew would happen when he helped lure James and Chris Bosh to Miami in the summer of 2010.

Wade famously left a huge bit of salary—about \$17 million over the lifespan of his contract—on the Heat bargaining table that summer, providing the team with flexibility to not only close the deals with James and Bosh but to add other players. James and Bosh also took less money than they would have been entitled to under the terms of the past collective bargaining agreement.

But Wade didn't just sacrifice cash that summer. The way he sees it, he also sacrificed stats.

And if he's the Robin to James' Batman right now, and the Heat are winning, then Wade's fine with that arrangement.

"It takes pressure off all of us," Wade said. "Obviously, Chris, myself and all these guys, we've played without a guy like that before and we've done pretty good. But when he's playing the way he is, it makes our job a little easier. And vice versa—when we're playing the way we are, it makes his job a little easier. So we all work for each other."

James is getting almost all the attention right now, and that's certainly deserved.

Still, to him, the notion that Wade is an afterthought in Miami now is downright comical.

"You guys overlook him," said James, the NBA's reigning MVP and a likely favorite to win that trophy for a fourth time this season. "We understand how great he is, how much he means to our team. He just goes out and plays the game that he loves and continues to dominate the way he has of late. He's a big part of our team. We can't win without him."

Eagles, QB Vick agree to restructured deal

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick took a significant pay cut to stay with the Philadelphia Eagles and compete for a starting job.

The four-time Pro Bowl quarterback agreed Monday to a restructured three-year contract with the Eagles, just two seasons after signing a \$100 million extension that included \$35.5 million in guaranteed money. The new deal is essentially for one-year, however.

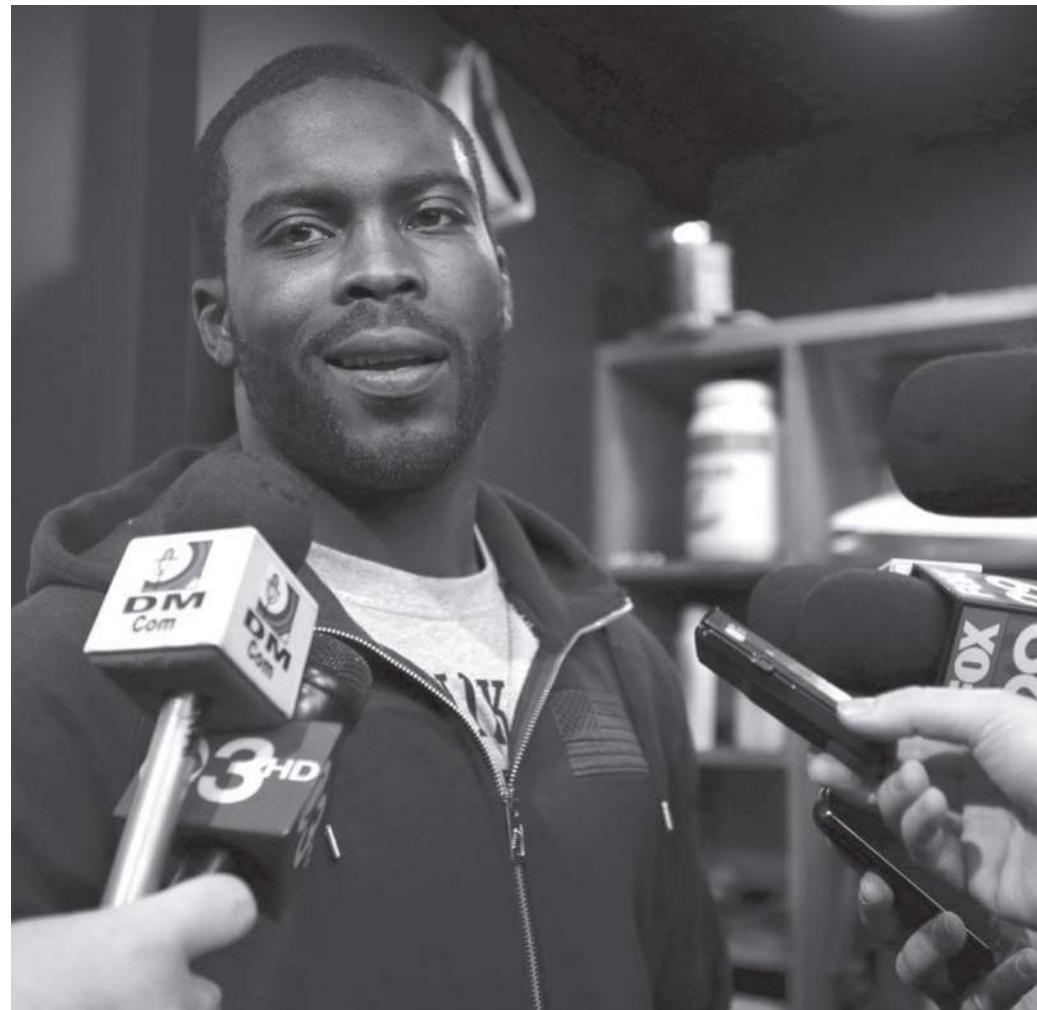
A source familiar with the contract said Vick could earn up to \$10 million in 2013 if he meets all his performance incentives, and the team will void the remaining two years on March 15. That person spoke on condition of anonymity because the terms haven't been released.

Vick was slated to earn about \$16 million next season, including a \$3 million roster bonus. He lost his starting job to rookie Nick Foles last season, but new coach Chip Kelly will give him a chance to win it back.

"I am grateful and proud to be a Philadelphia Eagle," Vick wrote on Twitter. "My heart is in Philly and this community is important to me."

Vick had a breakout year in 2010, leading the Eagles to the NFC East title, winning The Associated Press Comeback Player of the Year award and starting in the Pro Bowl. But he's battled injuries and inconsistency the last two years.

"What I look at is skillset first and foremost," Kelly said. "What he can do, how he can throw the football, how he can



times. You need to be built for the long haul. There is a skill set that Nick has that really excites me about him. I think we've got an older quarterback in Michael who is 32 now, and have a younger guy in Nick who is going into his second year, and I think it's the ideal situation for us moving forward this season."

Kelly didn't rule out a trade, however.

"I don't rule anything out, I don't rule anything in," he said. "But I know moving forward we, as an organization, had to make a decision on what to do with Michael, and I want Michael to be part of this team."

Vick has missed 11 games because of injuries over the last three seasons. He sustained a concussion in Week 10 last year and Reid decided to let Foles play the rest of the way because the Eagles were in last place. They finished 4-12.

Vick returned to start the season finale against the New York Giants because Foles was hurt. He finished the year with 2,362 yards passing, 12 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, and also lost five fumbles.

A former No. 1 overall pick by Atlanta, Vick was signed by Philadelphia in 2009 after missing two years because he was in federal prison. He came in as the No. 3 quarterback behind Donovan McNabb and Kevin Kolb.

After McNabb was traded and Kolb was injured in the season opener in 2010, Vick took over and was outstanding. He had career highs in yards passing (3,018), completion percentage (62.6), touchdowns passing

(21), touchdowns rushing (9) and passer rating (100.2).

But he hasn't come close to playing up to that level. There are questions, of course, about his durability and his age—Vick will be 33 in July.

"He's younger than (Dallas quarterback) Tony Romo, and he's right about the same age as (Giants quarterback) Eli Manning," Kelly said. "The only reason I say that is because I told Michael that this morning, and he didn't know."

Vick is undersized and stubborn about playing it safe. He usually takes on tacklers instead of running out of bounds and dives headfirst instead of sliding.

"I looked at the films, and studied the tape. When you look at Michael, it's his toughness. That cannot be overrated at all," Kelly said. "We looked at his skill set. He still has that skill set. He can still throw the football."

"He's got an unbelievable release, and it's our job as coaches to make sure he can get the ball out quickly."

The Eagles scored just 280 points last season as they endured an eight- and a three-game losing streak. Only Arizona (250) scored fewer in the NFC.

When asked whether Vick or Foles would work with the first-team offense in training camp, Kelly smiled and quickly showed he's going to be able to handle the Philadelphia media just fine.

"We'll go alphabetical," he said with a grin. "First name? Last name? We'll flip a coin."

In this Dec. 31, 2012 file photo, Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick speaks to members of the media as he cleans out his locker at the team's NFL football training facility in Philadelphia.

beat people with his feet. There are a lot of different factors he has. And you have to look at the landscape for other quarterbacks. I guess the best way I can put this is I agree there is a change of scenery going on here. For Michael Vick, there is a change of scenery, but not a change of address."

Since the Eagles hired Kelly to replace Andy Reid, there's been plenty of speculation

about which quarterback will run his aggressive, up-tempo offense. Though Kelly has been effusive in his praise for Foles, the slow-footed, pocket-passing isn't an ideal fit for a zone-read offense. Kelly, though, said he will cater his offense around his players' strengths. After all, he's known for being an offensive innovator who had tremendous success at Oregon.

"I don't think what we do

offensively can be said in one or two words that we're either this or we're this," Kelly said. "We're an equal-opportunity scoring operation. Whether we run the ball over the goal line or throw the ball over the goal line really doesn't bother me, it's how do we move the football."

"There have been games we've had to throw it in our league 50 times and there are games we have to run it 50

times. You need to be built for the long haul. There is a skill set that Nick has that really excites me about him. I think we've got an older quarterback in Michael who is 32 now, and have a younger guy in Nick who is going into his second year, and I think it's the ideal situation for us moving forward this season."

Kelly didn't rule out a trade, however.

"I don't rule anything out, I don't rule anything in," he said. "But I know moving forward we, as an organization, had to make a decision on what to do with Michael, and I want Michael to be part of this team."

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Vick is undersized and stubborn about playing it safe. He usually takes on tacklers instead of running out of bounds and dives headfirst instead of sliding.

On Monday, Carpenter said he had no symptoms. Of course, he hasn't been pitching.

"If I feel like I can throw again and I'm cleared to start throwing again, I'm sure I probably will," he said. "I'm not dying, I just have a messed-up arm."

Derek Jeter starts running

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Derek Jeter ran Monday for the first time since breaking his left ankle in October, another step toward being in the New York Yankees' lineup on opening day.

The 38-year-old shortstop jogged on a treadmill at the Yankees' minor league complex a day before pitchers and catcher report to spring training.

"I've gotten the OK to do everything," Jeter said. "It's a progression. I haven't used my legs, so I've got to get back to using them."

When asked how the running workout felt, Jeter replied "great."

Jeter began his third week of baseball workouts. He hit in a batting cage, fielded grounders

on the grass in front of the infield dirt at shortstop and threw in the outfield.

"I feel fine," Jeter said. "I was able to do everything else. I just had to be careful with my ankle, but now I've gotten the green light with that. I've gotten all the green lights I need."

The 13-time All-Star expects to start in New York's opener against Boston on April 1. Jeter broke the ankle lunging for a grounder in the AL championship series opener against Detroit on Oct. 13, and had surgery a week later.

"In terms of his work ethic, it's amazing," Yankees outfielder Curtis Granderson said.

"I got a chance see to him for the first time today. He's going to do whatever he can to get himself back there."

ST. LOUIS (AP)—St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Chris Carpenter hasn't ruled out pitching again, including this year.

If that seems remarkable, remember that it's Carpenter, whose sporadically brilliant career has included several comebacks from injury.

The 37-year-old Carpenter met with reporters at Busch Stadium on Monday as pitchers and catchers reported to spring training in Jupiter, Fla. Last week, the team said it wasn't counting on the long-time staff ace this season, shut down this time due to apparent circulation problems that left his pitching hand aching and discolored for hours after he left the mound.

Against odds, perhaps, there's dogged optimism.

"Maybe I don't ever want it to end," Carpenter said. "I don't think I'll ever retire, to be honest with you. I'll never say that word. There might always be hope. Maybe like when I'm 48 I can come back and pitch some more."

The 2005 NL Cy Young winner plans on meeting with team medical personnel returning after doing physical exams in

Florida. He hadn't responded to text messages from numerous well-wishers, nor one from Dr. Greg Pearl of Dallas, who performed radical surgery last July to relieve nerve compression in the shoulder that involved removing a rib, because he "didn't know what to say."

"It was supposed to be fine," Carpenter said. "And it hasn't been. So we'll see what happens."

He declined invitations to attend spring training from manager Mike Matheny, general manager John Mozeliak and teammates who consider him a clubhouse leader. Carpenter said he did not want to be a distraction for a team now looking for two new starting pitchers after Kyle Lohse left for free agency, and wasn't ready to be a full-time mentor, especially after getting shut down early in spring training last year.

"I keep hounding on him about it," Matheny said in Jupiter, Fla. "Every time he's around, he brings value. I'd love to have him here. Where he is right now, it's not an easy situation."

Concern about lefty Jaime Garcia's shoulder adds more

uncertainty to the rotation from an NL wild card team that lost to the Giants in the NLCS last fall. Young right-handers Joe Kelly, Shelby Miller and Trevor Rosenthal are candidates for spots.

"When you're in this situation once it's hard enough. When you're in it three or four times it becomes a big pain," Carpenter said. "Mentally and physically it's hard to come in every day and try to think you're part of it when you're not."

Carpenter was 21-5 with a 2.83 ERA in 2005, led the National League with a 2.24 ERA in 2009 and has a career 10-4 record and 3.00 ERA in 18 postseason starts. He was 4-0 in the 2011 postseason, beating the Rangers twice in the World Series.

But he totaled 21 1-3 innings in 2007 and '08 due to elbow and shoulder woes and missed the 2004 postseason due to nerve issues in the shoulder. He made only six starts last year, half of them in the postseason and none of them close to his old form.

"I felt as soon as I got to a

September fight for Pacquiao

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



Manny Pacquiao won't be fighting in April after all, but remains hopeful of waging his next battle in

September on home soil.

"What I'm trying to do is arrange the fight here in the Philippines so that our countrymen need not fly abroad to watch it," Pacquiao told ABS-CBN's Anne Santos recently.

While his fifth fight against

Juan Manuel Marquez looms large in September, the probability of the event—or any other Pacquiao fight happening in the country—is deemed remote.

It is conceded the time difference between the Philippines and the United States will make

it an unattractive pay-per-view event.

Second, the huge logistical expenses the fight would entail would make ticket prices prohibitive.

The last time Pacquiao fought at home was in 2006, when he



AP

Manny Pacquiao remains hopeful of having his next fight in September in the Philippines.

staged here.

A more attractive scenario, as envisioned by promoter Bob Arum, is Pacquiao-Marquez 5 either in Macau or Mexico. Experts say the fight could fall through if Marquez makes unreasonable demands, however.

Fun 'Love's' Run 5K & 10K this Saturday

DFS Galleria's Team DFS-670 employees club is holding its Fun "Love's" Run 5K and 10K fundraiser this coming Saturday, Feb. 16.

The 10-kilometer route begins at DFS and runs south along Beach Road to First Hawaiian Bank (at the Oleai Center) and back, while the 5K route ventures

the same direction to Triple J Motors and back. Both routes begin and end at DFS Galleria.

Proceeds raised from the runs will benefit Team DFS-670's annual DFS Goodwill Olympics Games between Team DFS-670 and DFS-Guam's Team DFS-671.

It costs only \$10 to compete,

which includes a raffle ticket into a prize giveaway that will take place as part of the closing awards ceremony.

The Top 5 finishers of each division will receive some handsome rewards provided by DFS.

Onsite registration begins at 5:15am with the race scheduled for 6am. Pre-registration forms

can be obtained at DFS from 10:30am to 10pm.

Event organizer request that participants dress in red in light of Valentine's Day.

The trek also serves as a good warm-up leading into the Saipan Marathon, scheduled for March 2.

For more information, contact DFS' Ben Babauta at 483-2563. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

Then after the break, MHS center Erik Dela Rosa took the reins and dropped 16 markers that were complemented by another 8 from guard John Darag, while KHS' Lampkin was kept under wraps after his hot start.

KHS would not go away, however and made it a 1-point game, 64-65, with 1:45 left in the third quarter.

Though far from out of the woods, MHS would lead it, 72-64, heading into the last period and Darag steadied the team toward the win with 10 points in the clutch, half of which came from the stripe.

Dela Rosa finished with a team-high 33 points, while KHS' Lampkin topped the field with a heftier 36.

In the junior varsity match, Gerald De Guzman, Shane De-

leon Guerrero-Diaz, and Kobe Mendoza jumped-started MHS to a 20-6 margin in the first period.

The team barreled further ahead, 38-10, at mid-point as the Jr. Ayuyus suffered a meltdown at both ends of the court in the second quarter.

The Ayuyus were then knocked out in the third period with a healthy dose of Deleon Guerrero-Diaz who pulled on a string of a dozen points in the surge that put the Dolphins climbed back to within a possession at the half, 20-23.

Both teams went back and forth in a tight third quarter as MHS' Alvin Francisco and KHS' Joseph Taitano stepped up for their respective squads though the count merely shifted to 30-33 in favor of the Ayuyus heading into the last frame.

MHS then backed off and settled for shots from the perimeter, and still connected with a handful of treys in garbage time for some added satisfaction.

Deleon Guerrero-Diaz topped the box score with 23 points, while KHS' Melvin Sakisat scrambled for 11 under duress.

In the freshmen tiff, KHS' Michael Muna hit the ground running with 8 points from the

get-go that helped provide them an early 13-7 lead.

He added 6 more in the second quarter, but MHS' Mikell Arciaga answered on the other end with 7 as the Dolphins climbed back to within a possession at the half, 20-23.

Both teams went back and forth in a tight third quarter as MHS' Alvin Francisco and KHS' Joseph Taitano stepped up for their respective squads though the count merely shifted to 30-33 in favor of the Ayuyus heading into the last frame.

MHS ran into a wall in the closing period and were stuffed to just a pair of free throws, while Muna and company cruised into victory lane.

Muna finished with a game high 23 points, while Arciaga tallied 17 for MHS.

VARSITY

MHS 96 – Dela Rosa 33, Darag 28, Ano 10, Bai 9, Santos 8,

the Final Four after getting byes in Week 1. Joining them in the semis are Amami Sakano and Tommy Choi. Sakano arranged a semis battle against Jones after edging Daniel Park, 8-6, while Choi forced a duel versus Minor, following an 8-1 triumph over Seiya Eda.

In other results in Week 1 of the White Coconut Classic, Haruya Eda and Tony Atalig claimed the last two quarterfinals

berth in the boys U12 singles. Eda shut out Jeffrey Seo last Sunday, 8-0, to set a date against Vincent Tudela, who drew a bye last weekend.

Atalig booted out Mondo Taniguchi, 8-2, to barge into the next round against Joshua Abra-gan. Other Round of 8 pairings in the boys U12 are Goodwin versus Kevin Kim and Michael Jones against Robbie Schorr.

In the round-robin girls U18

singles, Mikayla Lopez drew first blood, whipping Alina Ishikawa last Sunday, 8-1. Negahr Rastguyi and Melody Johnson are also in the field and will be playing this weekend.

The girls U10 singles also has a round-robin format with Jireh Warren and Ellie Epley gaining their first win last weekend. Warren pounded Maria Gregore last Saturday, 6-0, while Epley downed Erica Tuttle, 6-2.



CNMI flag-bearer Tyrone Omar and the more than 100 athletes and officials from the Commonwealth wait for the start of the opening ceremony of the 2010 Micronesian Games at the Palau National Track and Field Stadium in Koror.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Foundation Student Athletes of the Year, Coach of the Year, and Sports Administrator of the Year awards as well as other citations for outstanding individuals.

Winners of the NMASA monthly awards will also be

recognized and are encouraged to attend the ceremony to receive their hardware. The association will also be honored to have members of the elite CNMI Sports Hall of Fame at the banquet.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA LEADERS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	32	17	.653	—
Brooklyn	30	22	.577	3 1/2
Boston	27	24	.529	6
Philadelphia	22	28	.440	10 1/2
Toronto	19	32	.373	14

Southeast Division

Miami	34	14	.708	—
Atlanta	28	22	.560	7
Washington	15	35	.300	20
Orlando	15	36	.294	20 1/2
Charlotte	12	39	.235	23 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	31	21	.596	—
Chicago	30	21	.588	1/2
Milwaukee	25	25	.500	5
Detroit	20	33	.377	11 1/2
Cleveland	16	36	.308	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	41	12	.774	—
Memphis	32	18	.640	7 1/2
Houston	28	25	.528	13
Dallas	22	29	.431	18
New Orleans	18	34	.346	22 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	39	12	.765	—
Denver	33	19	.635	6 1/2
Utah	28	24	.538	11 1/2
Portland	25	26	.490	14
Minnesota	19	30	.388	19

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	37	17	.685	—
Golden State	30	21	.588	5 1/2
L.A. Lakers	24	28	.462	12
Sacramento	19	33	.365	17
Phoenix	17	35	.327	19

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5th For the Love Of Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Slackers' Andrew Halaby dives for a dig during the 5th For the Love Of Volleyball Tournament held last Saturday on the sand courts of Hyatt Regency Saipan.



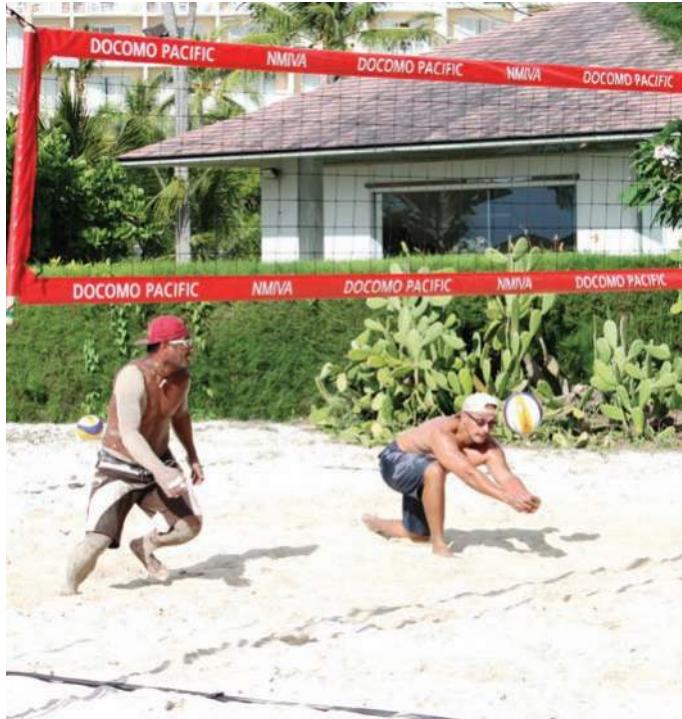
Slackers' Andrew Johnson fires an overhand return.



72%'s Chris Nelson bumps the ball up for his teammate Bruce Berline.



Delta's Jazz Roskow taps a shot over Lover Boys' Tyce Mister.



Delta's Jesse Palacios dives for a dig save.



Bearded Clam Diggers' Nick Gross pops up a deep serve in the corner.



Lover Boys' Russ Quinn, right, and 72%'s Bruce Berline go head-to-head at the net.



A Smokya player unleashes a vicious spike against the Hedgehogs.



**Mullens,
Bobcats end
Celtics' win
streak, 94-91**

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Saipan Tribune Sports



**Eagles, QB
Vick agree to
restructured
deal**

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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dolphins beat Ayuyus in varsity, jr. varsity



Kagman High School's Jonathan Santos lifts a floater past Marianas High School's Erik Dela Rosa during their MISO boys varsity basketball matchup last Monday at the MHS Gymnasium.

» Kagman beats MHS freshmen

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School Dolphins hung on to defeat the Kagman High School Ayuyus, 96-90, in Monday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys varsity basketball matchup held at the MHS Gymnasium.



In addition, MHS also came away victorious in the junior varsity pairing, 73-26, while KHS took the freshmen contest, 42-32.

The season continues today at the MHS Gym at 4pm with Agape Christian School Torchbearers taking on the Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays in junior varsity play followed at 5:45pm with the varsity pairing between KHS and the Mount Carmel School Knights.

In the varsity game, Jason Lampkin went off for 11 of the Ayuyus' 12 points in the opening period to give Kagman an early 21-15 lead in the first quarter.

MHS, however, rallied in the second canto and took control, 42-37, at the half.

The Dolphins busted a couple of 3-pointers early in the period and spread the ball generously from thereon.

See DOLPHINS on Page 26

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Eleven more players secured semis seats in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic after surviving Week 1 of the competition at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In the girls U12 singles, Asia Raulerson, Tania Tan, Malika Miyawaki, and Grace Choi won their quarterfinals matches last Sunday to complete the Final Four cast. Raulerson stunned top-ranked Hanah Nelson, 8-2 to set up a semis duel against Tan, who drew a bye in the first round last Saturday and advanced after an 8-1 triumph over Coume Kaga last Sunday.

Also last Sunday, Miyawaki defeated Catherine Atalig to march into the semis against



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Catherine Atalig stretches for a return during her and Dylan Ackerman's doubles game against Zena Demapan and Conatsu Kaga in Week 1 of the 2013 White Coconut Classic last Saturday at the AMP tennis courts. Atalig also played in the girls U12 singles, but lost to Malika Miyawaki in the quarterfinals last Sunday.

Grace Cho, who eliminated Mimi Sakano with an 8-4 victory in their quarterfinals tiff.

The boys U10 singles is also down to four players after Sean Lee and Gangmin Kim won their respective matches last Sunday. Lee topped Eugene Park, 6-3, while Kim routed Jamin Elliot, 6-1. With their victories, Lee and Kim earned the right to face Aditya Rai and Kentaro Miyawaki in the semifinals, respectively, this weekend.

In the men's open singles, only one slot is left after Raj Rai, Dong Min Lee, and Thea Minor occupied the first three seats. Raj Rai advanced following an 8-1 win over Gary Ramsey last Sunday, while Lee had a free ride to the semis with a walkover triumph versus Eric

See 11 MORE on Page 26

Sexy Boys takes Division B lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 The Sexy Boys bagged two wins in one night to remain unbeaten and claim the lead in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League.

The flawless Sexy Boys first edged the ICS Shooters, 48-46, in a regular match

last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court and then topped Sexy Prime in the make-up game on the same night, 70-60, to improve to a 5-0 record, a game ahead of the second-running Adobo.

The division leader held the ICS Shooters to three field goals and 7 points in the fourth quarter to turn a 33-39 third quarter deficit to the 2-point

See SEXY BOYS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sexy Boys' John Larot pulls up for a jumper against LD Prime's Cris Esteves, left, and Toby Fleming during their make-up game in Division B of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

2014 Micro Games cost: \$1,200 per delegate

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has estimated the cost to participate in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei at \$1,200 per delegate and has set a payment scheme for next year's competition.

NMASA president Michael White during the group's monthly meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium said payments will be accepted in two installments. The initial payment of \$600 should be



White

made by July 1 this year, while the last must be completed by Jan. 1, 2014.

The cost for next year's Micro Games is higher than the \$950 NMASA set for the 2014 competition in Palau and at this time no financial assistance from either NMASA nor the government has been made available, so White is encouraging its members to start their fundraising drives.

Three years ago, NMASA shouldered the \$250 of the cost of the Palau trip, while the government shelled out \$60,000, and the rest came from either the participating

See MICRO GAMES on Page 26